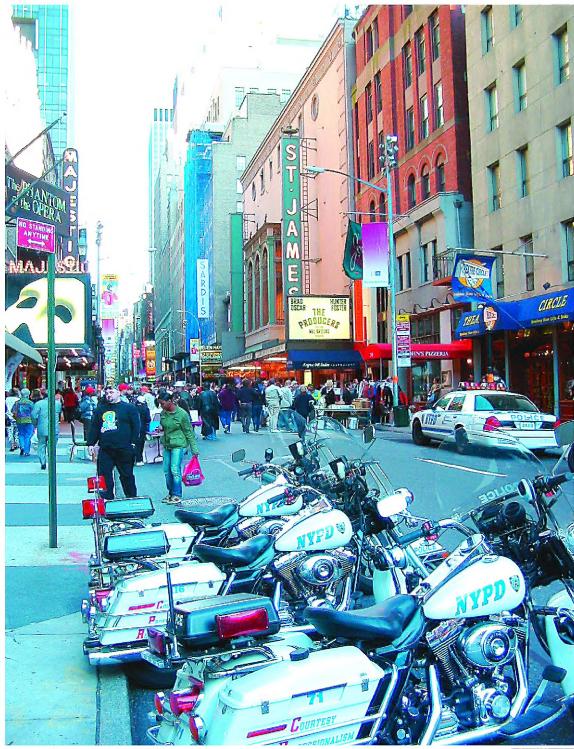


THE GATEWAY

volume XCIV number 21 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 25 november, 2004



International students could face massive tuition hike

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
News Editor

International students may face a tuition hike of nearly 23.5 per cent next year if a proposed increase comes to fruition.

Currently, international undergraduate and graduate students at the U of A pay 15.7 per cent more than domestic students. International students pay a differential fee on top of standard tuition, amounting to nearly \$12 000 a year for most undergraduate programs. If the administration's proposal goes through, international undergraduate students will pay another \$2 700 to study at the U of A next year. Both undergraduate and graduate students will pay 200 per cent more than Canadians. Next year's proposed tuition increase for domestic undergraduates at the U of A is 5.7 per cent.

According to SU president Jordan Blatz, such a large and sudden tuition increase is unacceptable.

"We can't expect them to handle such a large increase in one year," he argued, adding that after contacting international undergraduate students to let them know about the proposal, he received 300 e-mails from concerned students. Last night, he held a meeting with international students to discuss concerns before today's Budget Advisory Meeting, in which the SU, Graduate Students' Association, Provost and other members of the U of A administration will discuss budgetary issues.

"I've opposed this proposal very

strongly from the beginning," said Blatz, stating that current students from abroad had no way of predicting the increase when they chose to attend the U of A. He's hoping the U of A will implement the change through a grandfather clause in which current students would face the same tuition increase as domestic students, and incoming students would pay the 23.5 per cent increase.

According to U of A Provost Dr Carl Amrhein, the amount of the increase is not confirmed, but is currently being discussed by the Budgetary Advisory Committee. He explained that the proposal is a means to compensate the University's core operating budget deficit. Last year, the U of A lost around 50 professors, after losing 100 professors over the previous eight years.

"We are facing, as an institution, a very serious erosion of our core teaching capacity in the tenure-stream professoriate, the heart and soul of our institution," said Amrhein, adding that the dean of the faculty of science is already expecting to lose 30 professors next year.

"We are looking for all reasonable, principled ways of increasing revenue. It is a principle that international students are expected to pay some large measure of the true cost of their education," he added. Amrhein noted that the international student differential fee has not increased in the last six years.

Amrhein added he opposes grandfathering for equity reasons.

"We don't grandfather any students from tuition increases," he said.

START SPREADING THE NEWS Graham Letter gives it up for the city that never sleeps. See his take on page 11.

Provincial election brings gains for opposition parties

COSANNA PRESTON
Senior News Editor

Monday's provincial election saw Ralph Klein's Conservatives easily capture a majority, but it had its twists with new seats for other provincial parties and a boost to postsecondary education's profile.

Though the Conservatives won handily, the Liberals picked up an additional ten seats while the New Democratic Party (NDP) doubled their total to four and the Alberta Alliance captured a single seat after their first election campaign.

"I'm definitely not surprised to see another Tory majority. I think everyone in the province was expecting

that outcome—perhaps maybe not as many opposition seats, but in my personal opinion, having a stronger opposition in any sort of government is a good thing," said Jordan Blatz, University of Alberta Students' Union president.

The opposition parties were equally as optimistic. Kieran LeBlanc, communications director for the Alberta Liberals, viewed their three new seats in Calgary as a sign of a changing Alberta.

"I think Kevin [Taft] appealed to voters in Calgary. We spent a significant amount of time there both during the election and before it. And we had a fantastic platform."

PLEASE SEE ELECTION • PAGE 2

Inside

News	1-3
National News	4
Opinion	5-10
Feature	11-13
Sports	14-17
A&E	18-20
Classifieds	22
Comics	23



7 You think Christian do ya? Well, Tim Peppin doesn't, and he's going to tell you why in this Opinion section. Make sure you read the whole thing before sending in your letters.

From the archives

Steve Sieker, an arts representative of the Students' Council, put forward a motion to disaffiliate the university from the Canadian Federation of Students. Paul LaGrange, emeritus SocRep, who is a Progressive Conservative Member of the Legislature, was quoted supporting the free-trade agreement, but he stressed that he did so as a student, not the SU president. He also did not directly endorse the candidate. Still, the campaign material credited LaGrange as the SU president and Sieker was concerned about the effects of the quote on the SU's reputation, stressing that the SU is not a party entity. "People of the Students' Union are not given a mandate to speak out and use their positions to support candidates," said Sieker.

1988



14 We've got Pandas volleyball galore today. James Storie previews their matches, and Annmarie Narayanan argues that they're doing the right thing by playing a new rule.

THE GATEWAY

thursday, 25 november, 2004

volume XCV number 21

Published since 21 November, 1970
Circulation 11,000
ISSN 0845-565XSuite 3-04
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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journal Society (GSJS), a non-profit organization operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

The Gateway is proud to be a member of the Canadian University Press.

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colophon

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Lister and Campus 5-0 face off for charity

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
News Editor

After years of write-ups in the Gateway's Campus Crime Beat, Lister Centre is going head-to-head with Campus Security—but for a good cause.

Lister Centre and 5-0 are lacing up their skates and heading out for a charity hockey game this Friday to support the U of A's Campus Food Bank (CFB).

The event will raise funds by charging a \$2 admission fee and holding a 50/50 draw.

This is the first time the CFB has held a charity hockey game, explained David Feldman, CFB manager.

"We hope to make it an annual event," he said.

While the CFB is managing with food donations, but it needs monetary donations to buy perishable food items.

Feldman added that use of the food bank has increased by approximately 20 per cent from last year, and that it has increased by that amount annually over the last few years.

"The University population increases, the cost of living increases, [and] student loan funding does not, minimum wage does not," he said.

"So, as everything else goes up and the amount of income the students receive does not, more and more people are having to resort to using the Campus Food Bank."

Darcey Pennoch, community relations officer with Campus Security, explained that 5-0 sees students' struggles at an angle much of the campus doesn't.

While most offenses that occur on campus are committed by people not affiliated with the University, some crimes—like textbook theft—are perpetrated by struggling students.

"[It's] not well planned out, not



MATT FREHNER

HOCKEY FOR FOOD? David Feldman discusses the new charity hockey game.

well thought out, but you can tell it's an act of desperation. Thankfully, it's not that common, but when it does happen it's a reminder that services like the Campus Food Bank are necessary," Pennoch added.

While the Lister versus Campus Security match is a bitting-on-cheek, Darcey Pennoch hopes it will promote community building between the two groups. "I sure hope Lister Centre feels that way!" he joked.

"It's a fun game of hockey and a way to raise money for the food bank," said Lister Centre residence co-ordinator Clint Galloway, agreeing the event is an opportunity for Lister and 5-0 to strengthen their ties. He added the Food Bank is a great resource for cash-strapped students.

"Food is always an issue for students."

Students too busy for environment: Blatz

EOCS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Students' Union President Jordan Blatz emphasized the importance of building campus community environmental awareness through projects like the SUB waste audit.

"The waste audit will make students more aware of what is being thrown out. It will stimulate dialogue and start people thinking about the waste that our 40,000-person University community generates," Blatz said.

He also said that it's important to consider the factors, such as convenience, that could be contributing to the amount of waste generated on campus.

"Students are busier than they ever

have been in the past. As costs and tuition skyrocket, the students who can afford to go to university are forced to work part-time and sometimes full-time," he explained.

"Students are one of the most conscientious demographics, but when we continue to put students in dire financial need and under financial stress, the whole business of a student's life and the convenience factor really contributes to the environmental waste that we're generating."

Both Lennie and Blatz emphasized the importance of conserving the environment on and off campus, and encouraged students to take the few

extra steps it would take to reduce the U of A's waste generation.

"It's important to think about and challenge your personal perceptions of things: how you consider what you're throwing out. Whether it's using both sides of a piece of paper or taking those extra five steps, think about the positive outcome of those actions," said Lennie.

"In our busy lives, it can be easy at times to forget about things like the environment. It just takes a reminder to remember the more important things and take that extra few minutes in the morning to pack those containers in your backpack," explained Blatz.

SU wants commitment from govt

ELECTION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It sold to university students, to educators, to healthcare people, business people," said LeBlanc of the Liberal leader who predicted a Liberal government in the next election.

The NDP, though not winning the clout of the Liberals, was equally excited, said Shannon Phillips, the NDP communications director.

She said the news resources and funding accompanying these new MLAs would help to make the NDP an even stronger opposing voice.

"While we were asking about lost money in BSE, the Liberals were asking about the price of Ralph Klein's orange juice on a trip to New York. We're going to continue to be effective."

The PC campaign was riddled with criticism for lacking a concrete platform, but campaign manager Marvin Moore said that despite losses in Edmonton, his party was very pleased with the support throughout Alberta. He added that government planning strengthened the PCs from making any monetary campaign promises.

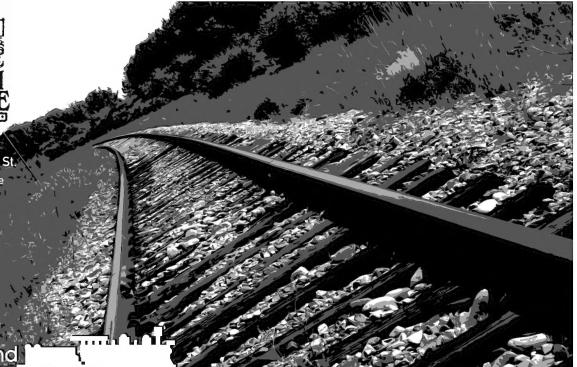
"As a government we had to be responsive on spending priorities. We have three-year plans that we have outlined in advance so we didn't make any monetary promises during the campaign. The [other] parties promised that. That was the only difference."

But Blatz was disappointed with the lack of commitment from the PCs and all other parties towards postsecondary education. While pleased to see it as a major election issue, he was hoping for more concrete action.

"No major announcements relating to postsecondary were made and that's disappointing, but it's definitely now on the government's radar and it puts the U of A in a good position to continue to lobby the government," said Blatz, noting he was trying to arrange a meeting with Premier Klein.

Blatz felt the postsecondary-education coalition helped get the issue on campaign platforms and thanked the public for prioritizing it on the IY's Future Survey. He hoped the government would consider the message from Albertans and invest in postsecondary education.

"We're hoping that our government will believe that postsecondary education and the funding of our universities, colleges, and technical institutes are the best investment in a debt-free Alberta," he said.



STREETERS

Compiled and photographed
by Tianna Mapstone and
James Storie

A proposed tuition hike could see international students paying 200 per cent of Canadian student tuition, or approximately \$2700 more for a full academic year.

What are your thoughts on the proposed increase?



Anand Mehta
Science II

Basically 200 per cent is too high. They should only be paying what the cost is for the education ... and the entire idea behind this University is to attract international students and have international fame about this. This way we are just going to be forcing them to go somewhere else.



Dam Le
Science III

Well, I think 200 per cent is too high because I don't think that it would be beneficial for them to come over and to [receive] the advantages of the U of A from their original country. It's already hard enough with loans and stuff like that. So I think it's unfair.



Allison Webb
Science II

I think it's kind of unfair. They put as much effort into their school work as we do, but end up paying three to four times as much as we pay for school.



Elly Carlson
Arts II

I think it's not good, because it's important to promote multiculturalism within the school, and if you increase tuition, you are less likely to get a diversity of people. However, it's also important to make sure that people from Alberta have a chance to get into university ... [so] they don't have to travel somewhere and pay for having to travel and live somewhere else. I think it's ridiculous to increase it by that much though.



STOP THE VIOLENCE Muriel Stanley Venne calls on Edmonton for support.

LAUREN JENNINGS

Support groups speak out on violence against women

TIANNA MAPSTONE
News Writer

A speakers' forum held at the U of A on Tuesday emphasized that violence against women, the most pervasive human rights violation in the world, is not just a global issue but occurs in the Edmonton community.

At the Amnesty International event entitled "Face the Facts!" speakers from three Edmonton women's aid organizations—WIN house, specializing in short-term crisis intervention and practical assistance; Changing Together, an aid organization for immigrant women; and the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW)—educated students on local violence against women, and how they cope with the horrific and widespread problem.

Along with a film screening, the forum is one of Amnesty's initiatives this week promoting their two-year global campaign to stop violence against women. Their purpose is to heighten awareness of the violence, according to Trang Nguyen, vice-president of the U of A's Amnesty chapter.

"Hopefully, through some of our events, we can mobilize people to take action and spread the message that violence against women is a human rights violation and that ... [ending] violence against women is not only a personal responsibility, but also an institutional responsibility," she said.

"By bringing in organizations like [these] ... we want to recognize and support front-line organizations that help women escape violent situations and escape violence."

"Culture itself never causes family violence," said Cesar.

"Violence against women is an individual choice. ... Cultural beliefs make it harder for some women to seek help, or to get out."

Immigrant women are particularly at risk for victimization. Simply not knowing the language makes accessing services more difficult, particularly if they use the abusive partners as translators, she said.

"By bringing in organizations like [these] ... we want to recognize and support front-line organizations that help women escape violent situations and escape violence."

TRANG NGUYEN,
VICE-PRESIDENT,
U OF A AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Threats of deportation from abusive spouses can change drastically above their heads, one more way of keeping them silent. Family violence has to do with threat and control. Cesar explained, and immigrant status as well as factors such as extended-family pressure hinders the women's ability to leave the abusive situation. They risk complete isolation from ethno-cultural communities, but Changing Together provides the tools for these women to help themselves, she added.

Sandra Dance, executive director of WIN House, said the shelters take in a thousand women and children each year, but turn away six to seven hundred.

Funding, as always, stands in the way. They can provide only 21 days of care for clients, which she described as not sufficient to turn a life around.

Many women go on to independent living, Dance said; twelve to 18 per cent return to their partner, and subsequently to WIN House. Short-term and limited support causes many women to suffer needlessly, and Amnesty's campaign attempts to bring these issues to light.

There is a global trend of violence against women from birth to old age, said Ines Cesar, family services director for Changing Together. It occurs in a continuum, encompassing everything from the abortion of female fetuses to the rape and murder of women, she said. People believe that culture causes violence against women, but violence against women is a global phenomenon, she explains.

"This is our chance to connect with students on campus and let them know about the issues of violence against women," said Nguyen.

"It's so easy to let it pass by. I mean, we hear about it every day: someone getting murdered or someone getting sexually assaulted, but the fact that we accept it as a normal part of our lives is not right. We can't tolerate it."

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Amnesty International frowns on student council's Falun Gong ban

ANGELA VOGEL
The Baron

SAINT JOHN (CUP)—Amnesty International is not amused. The human rights group says the University of New Brunswick at Saint John Students' Representative Council (SRC) may have violated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights when it rejected the formation of a spiritual club.

"They can't just arbitrarily deny the freedom of expression and association," said John Tackaberry, a spokesperson for Amnesty International Canada.

"That's a direct violation of human rights."

In October, student Adam Ainsworth approached the SRC with an application to start a club for students who wished to learn more about Falun Gong, a spiritual movement that promotes healing and wellness through exercise and meditation.

Falun Gong, loosely based in Taoist and Buddhist teachings, was outlawed by the Chinese government in 1999, and Ainsworth accused the SRC Vice-President Xiaolin (Brandon) Zhan of playing a direct role in blocking the club at the University.

"He told me he cannot allow it on campus," said Ainsworth, adding his Falun Gong club was approved at the University's Fredericton campus when he was a student there last year.

The Saint John SRC was clear in its denial of Ainsworth's application.

"They said they didn't feel it was in the best interest of students," he said.

Zhan is frank about his part in the

club's rejection.

"The reason I told them not to have the club is to protect the well-being of Chinese students on campus," he said. "Let's assume the Chinese government found out about a student practicing Falun Gong on campus. What happens to him and his family? I don't want to put any student at risk."

"They can't just arbitrarily deny the freedom of expression and association."

JOHN TACKABERRY,
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CANADA

But Tackaberry firmly asserted that is not a good enough reason to deny students the right to explore Falun Gong if they are interested.

"His attempt to protect his fellow citizens from themselves is not possible, and it's not acceptable," he said.

Zhan said he has trouble seeing the value of a practice he and the Chinese government describe as a "dangerous cult." He offered a personal example.

"My mom had a heart problem, and she was going to practice Falun Gong. But the master [a Falun Gong leader] told her not to take any medicine."

Zhan said his mother rejected the idea, but added he knows a student in the international office whose grandmother died when she adopted the practice and refused medication.

"If you practice something that puts your life in danger, it's the government's responsibility to take you out

of the risk to protect the citizens of the country," said Zhan.

According to Amnesty International, the Chinese government has done exactly that, attempting to stamp out a movement it says poses a "threat to social and political stability."

According to the site, tens of thousands Falun Gong practitioners are arbitrarily detained by police, tortured or killed in custody, or kept in psychiatric institutions.

Zhan, who admits he has never heard of Amnesty International, is skeptical about these reports.

"That's their story," he said.

"In China, we saw Falun Gong practitioners cut open their own bellies, and burn themselves. They make stories about the government."

He said he believes Chinese students in Saint John aren't the least bit interested in a club promoting Falun Gong. But Ainsworth is convinced it's his duty to spread the word about Falun Gong, and he continues to bring copies of a Chinese-language newspaper promoting human rights to campus, despite the fact he strongly suspects some students are throwing them out.

Reaction from Chinese students, who comprise about 18 per cent of the Saint John campus' student body, is mixed.

May Tan, president of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, carefully weighed in.

"I won't practice it. That's my choice," she said.

"If [Ainsworth] practices, that's his choice. Everybody has the right to do what they like in Canada. It's a free country."

Mass arrests follow student anti-Charest protest

JAMIE DALLAIRE
JOSH GINSBERG
The McGill Daily

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—A protest against Jean Charest's Québec Liberal government ended in mass arrests the night of Friday, 19 November, with police blocking off one city block in downtown Montreal.

Students were protesting the government's \$103 million cuts to financial aid, as well as cuts to other social programs. The demonstration occurred on the first day of the provincial Liberal party's annual convention.

According to one student protester, who identified himself only as a student from the Université de Montréal, the march was cut off by riot police.

"There were robo-cops over there on each side; they wanted to block the street. Instead of stopping we just started running, but not everybody ran," he said.

"Cops smashed people down; they smashed some people on the street."

Police on the scene said protesters vandalized expensive cars as they marched, forcing police to take action. A protester confirmed this, but insisted most of the people targeted by police had not taken part in any vandalism.

"It was very peaceful; most people were not doing anything. It's unfortunate, because all the peaceful people were the ones who got caught," she said.

Police said all four of Montréal's intervention units were brought in to control the demonstration, and detained 50 to 60 people.

Many people fled as police moved to encircle the activists, pounding their riot shields in unison. Police cornered

over 100 activists, the reporter on the scene estimated. Several of the activists were clubbed during the roundup, resulting in at least one broken wrist and several painful bruises. But at least two of the detainees were not involved in the protest at all.

A lengthy siege ensued, during which many trapped activists sang, danced, and performed impromptu street theatre.

Approximately three hours later, as a slew of abandoned communist and anarchist flags were being picked off the ground, the last of the cuffed and arrested dissenters was carted onto a waiting bus. All those arrested were levied a \$138 municipal fine for "having participated in or having been present at a march or an assembly which posed a danger to peace, security, or order in the public domain."

Blake Sifton, a student at McGill University, was one of the detained.

"They announced they were going to arrest people. One by one they grabbed people, they searched everything, put our hands behind our backs, put zip ties on us and put us on the ground. We sat there for 45 minutes," he said.

The protesters were then photographed, loaded onto several public buses and released in small groups at several subway stations far from the city's downtown.

Despite his ordeal, Sifton did not regret attending the demonstration.

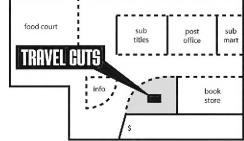
"I knew mass arrest was possible. But I wasn't willing to go out of fear of being arbitrarily arrested. That would be giving in to fear tactics of police," he said.

With files from Jack Sanford

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OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 25 november, 2004

Left-leaning parties have to make their voices heard

AFTER LEARNING THE outcome of the provincial election, it was initially soothed. Sure, the PCs had won again (obviously), but they had less of the popular vote this time, the Liberals have doubled their seats and the NDP has finally improved their standing in our province—perhaps we're starting to veer to the left a little. I thought, kicking up my non-cowboy-boot heels for a celebratory fair-trade coffee and veggie sandwich.

But I picked up the Edmonton Journal Wednesday morning and read a rather disturbing headline: "Alberta election delivers 'dream result.'"

Huh?

What I hadn't realized is that rural MLAs now make up two-thirds of the new Tory caucus. This will inevitably mean a change of composition for Klein's cabinet, and very possibly a big, steaming plate of country conservatism for the red coals in Edmonton.

There will be 17 Liberals and four NDP MLAs kicking around in the Legislature, but how valuable this is, in the face of the stronger rural voice, will be hard to predict. Perhaps in the face of growing Liberal support, our "Opposition" party will finally step up to the plate and at least swing the bat, as years for the Liberals have been relatively quiet in relation to Klein's misguided fiscal and social conservatism. But perhaps the election outcome will give them the small dash of confidence they need to launch into action. Or perhaps the NDP will continue to fill in the gaps left by the soft-spoken Liberals as they have been doing, and will continue to slowly build momentum in our province, receiving minimal media attention as they swim against the current. The latter is more likely.

If the Liberals and NDP don't scream loudly enough, the worry here, for anyone left-leaning, is of course that the PCs will continue to peel back social programs, and fight against such significant things as—gasp—gay marriage, without significant opposition. There will be continuous challenges to picked-on programs like the Assisted Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program in light of a more conservative kind of PC government gnashing their teeth at the Legislature. This will mean that regardless of the increased number of seats for the Liberals and NDP, their work is going to get increasingly trickier.

And things are going to get harder for everyone in the province concerned with postsecondary education, the environment, public healthcare and social assistance, or anyone with even the faintest sense of obligation for upholding the public good. The PCs are trashing our environment and refusing to raise our pathetic minimum wage; Alberta has a premier who publicly ridiculed AISH recipients, and drunkenly harassed homeless people, who would routinely scream, in concern, at the media for asking him pointed questions. It's time we yell back a little louder.

CATILIN CR AWISHAW
News Editor

Drugs: the lazy man's theatre

A RECENT CANADIAN PRESS ARTICLE reported that the number of Canadian marijuana users has doubled since 1994, while the number of drinkers increased nearly ten per cent in the same time period.

A disturbing trend? Probably, but the article makes no attempt to explain why this is happening. Is it a consequence of our increasingly liberal society? Has our permissive attitude inadvertently led to a general decrease in morality? Or is it just that we think we have nothing better to do?

After all, it's a lot easier to head directly to the bar or, in the case of pot smokers, to someone's couch to relax after a long, hard week of school than it is to go out on the town and get some culture. Maybe instead of relying on stimulants and depressants to help us cope with stress and anxiety, we should learn to relax by reading, writing poetry, or going to the theatre. Who am I kidding? I'll see you in RATT.

KRISTINE OWRAM
Managing Editor

LETTERS

Where's the coverage of international student issues, *Gateway*?

As a U of A student, I feel quite let down that one of the major sources of information on campus, the *Gateway*, seems to have completely ignored the current hot topic, namely the hike in tuition for international students. Is it because you guys don't care about what affects the international student population? I mean, give me a break, the student newspaper—you guys are supposed to represent us and help us be heard, for heaven's sake!

Such a pathetic response to a real issue—for once there is an opportunity for you guys to come up with something meaningful and you choose to ignore it? Oh, are there no international students working behind the scenes? If that is the case, it makes things worse, because your silence just shows how indifferent you are to the plight of your fellow students! Come out of it—stop sitting pretty and show us that you're actually a newspaper!

RADHIKA GOPINATH
Nutrition and Food Science III

Clarifying CAUS stance

I'm writing to clarify something in James Storie's article ("NDP slams Conservative postsecondary plan") that appeared in the 18 November issue of the *Gateway*. The article states that an endorsement of the NDP came from past and current Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) chair (Anand Sharma and Shirley Barrig, respectively). This is incorrect, as Anand and Shirley are both past chairs, and neither has any current affiliation with CAUS—except in the fact that Mr. Sharma is currently a member of the U of A Students' Council.

I mention this not because of my own hubris, but rather because CAUS goes to great lengths to remain non-partisan, and this article gives the impression that we are, in fact, endorsing a certain party. While we have engaged in critical evaluation of the parties, CAUS does not formally endorse any single political party. CAUS is a lobby group that represents over 80 000 university students to the provincial government and other stakeholders, lobbying on behalf of postsecondary issues. Much of our legitimacy as a lobby group depends on us being seen as non-partisan.

ALEX ABOUD
SU VP External

What about hairy women, Peppin?

In response to Tim Peppin's enlightening article on body hair ("It's time hair was sexy again," 18 November), I have an offer to make. I have an awfully nice sashay lady friend, and I'd love to introduce you! Oh that's right, you don't mention liberating hairy women in your article, just hairy men. Well, my friend, until you focus on the double standard that exists when it comes to hairiness and gender, you will



never be liberated from the pressures you face to be less hairy, or from the sexism that exists in your comments.

You even mention that you are disgusted with other hairy men. I feel sorry that you hate yourself in this way. But until women, as well, are free from the pressures that force us to put lots of time, energy, money and effort into shaving, waxing, electrolysis, depilatory lasers, hair removal, et cetera, et cetera, we just may resent the freedom already have to be hairy. So in other words, have fun with women squatters, because I for one—who "tends to those problem areas" of hair legs, underarms and eyebrows specifically, which men do not have to remove hair from—will never be attracted to hairy men. So unless you can accept what you consider to be flaws in other people and love them anyways, you will never be able to accept your own flaws and love yourself.

KRISTEN LOGAN
Arts IV

Steve Smith is entirely unstoppable

Steve Smith, Say it.

The words roll off the tongue like freshly brewed beer. Now Steve, I don't need you to tell me that he is never brewed. Furthermore, I'm well aware that even if it were, the cholesterol secreted into the bile would cause it to crystallize. And everyone knows a rolling gall stone gathers no moss.

He is alluded to in the headline in many a *Gateway* article from "Will stupid Steve Smith shut up?" (21 October) to "Steve Smith, Will You Marry Me?" (11 March). And this self-proclaimed "completely ass" frequents the SUwebboard like a horny 14-year-old on Neopets. Some say he is the Anti-Christ. Others claim he is the Voldemort of campus: a raging egomaniac, a shit disturber, an opinionated jerk, and some swear "Steve's my baby's daddy."

But no matter how you look at

it, he cannot be squelched. Many have tried. And many have given up because, as the reigning champion of getting the last word, Steve Smith has more time on his hands than ... someone who has a lot of time on their hands. Not only does he get the last word, but he does in such a politically correct way that you want to pour brie frappuccinos down his throat but don't, because then he would point out that you are violating the Robert's Rules of Order (Rule 11, Section 3) in an exhibit of disorderly conduct.

No matter what I write, I know he-who-shall-not-be-named will point out my ineptness with the English language, my crappy metaphors and my shameful knowledge of the endocrine system all whilst politely informing me I'm fugly. So how do you fight this beast? I have no invisibility cloak. No constitutions to hide behind. And I don't really know jackshit about Robert's Rules of Order—had to Google it.

I could give up. Or I could resort to one of the most juvenile yet powerful methods out there: Steve Smith, I dare you to not respond to this letter. The act "respond" encompasses all replies, rebuttals or subtle acknowledgements in any forum. This includes your infamous interpretative dances.

Yeah—the first option is looking pretty good right now.

RAMYA VELMURUGIAH
Arts III

Gays need role models

With regard to Tyson Kaban's article on the lack of gay role models ("I want a real, manly gay idol," 16 November), I don't think Topher McFarlane's response ("Plenty of gay idols, if you know where to look," 18 November) really got at the heart of what Kaban was trying to say. The important part of having role models, or at least positive images, of your own minority group is that you are able to identify with them. A gay man myself, I don't particularly identify with a hairy, chubby, obnox-

ious guy who swindles his way to a million bucks (Richard Hatch) or to many lovelorn women (Rupert Everett). "Manly" is certainly not a word I would use to describe either of these two, nor would it fit RuPaul or Elton John. Kudos to them for being who they are, but I don't think that helps a hockey-playing, small-town average Joe who happens to be gay feel comfortable with his sexual orientation. On the contrary, he is more likely to think, "I'm not like that" and retreat further into the closet.

As a Bears athlete, my idea of a gay role model would be someone like Canadian Olympic gold medalist Mark Tewksbury. Unfortunately, people like him are desperately few and far between, and more than outnumbered by the negative stereotypes still prevalent in our daily lives. McFarlane raises an excellent point that ideally we should look to people in our own communities rather than celebrities, but anyone who's been home to a small town recently (I live in the Northwest Territories) knows this is not realistic.

We've all heard and been somewhat dubious of the statistic that one in ten people is gay; what is indisputable is that a significant proportion of these people are hiding it from family and friends. Most of them are not going to be inspired to come out by the success of a "fabulous" TV fashion guru, no matter how (debatably) sexy he is.

STEWART MAWDSEY
Science III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LEANNE FONG

BABYSITTER Who needs to parent when cartoons are on?

I can't wait to raise my child on television

RAMIN
OSTAD



I can't wait to be a father. I can't wait to bring my children home from the hospital and show them off to my friends and family. I can't wait to hear their first words, and film their first steps. I can't wait to potty train them and teach them the "correct" way to eat an Oreo. I can't wait until they go to school, where they will make friends, and I won't have to make as much of an effort to pay attention to them. As much as I love my children, they take up a lot of my time. Which is why I can't wait until they're old enough to be raised by the media.

I can't wait to spend more time practicing my golf swing, and for my wife to spend more time shopping for overpriced shoes instead of groceries. While we spend time with ourselves, we can have peace of mind knowing that the warm glow of television is watching over our children. While my wife is out at a spa with her friends, our kids will have learned with their own Kraft Dinner.

My son will bother me as I read the sports section of the paper by showing me how efficiently he can make Master Chief kill aliens. At school, his low-income teacher will try to make him feel better by saying our son has ADD, which I will not believe. How could my son have a low attention span when he has memorized all the words to the new Eminem album, or all the moves for his fighter in Tekken 4? Our children will be innately smart. We won't even have to teach them right from wrong.

I can't wait until they become teenagers. Having raised them so well, we can let them go to unchaperoned parties without curfews; after all, we don't want them to think we don't

trust them. I can't wait for my daughter's training bra to be a lingerie from La Senza Girl, or for her to wear a tube top before she even develops. And we can be sure that her peers will keep her from getting fat; sure, it hurts her feelings and may cause her emotional scarring, but who would love a girl who weighed more than 110 lbs? Even there's a little chunky. I can't wait until there is a gunfight at our son's school, or until he and his friends hurt each other practicing wrestling moves.

I can't wait to spend more time practicing my golf swing, and for my wife to spend more time shopping for overpriced shoes instead of groceries. While we spend time with ourselves, we can have peace of mind knowing that the warm glow of television is watching over our children.

It wouldn't be our fault as parents, of course. The music, movie, and gaming industries are the ones to blame. It's because of video games that children died at Columbine, or killed two hookers in New York. It's because of Eminem that our son will tell us to "go fuck yourselves." It's because of Britney Spears that our daughter goes out half naked. Jojo's adolescent jungle fever is the reason our daughter will have sex at 15. There is nothing we as parents will be able to do to stop it; we can only raise them as our parents raised us, and our grandchildren will be raised the same way. I will sit and watch my grandson with pride, and reflect on the days when I just couldn't wait.

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Don't call yourself a Christian—you're not

TIM
PEPPIN

Christmas is coming. And speaking of Christ, it's high time to challenge and incense another large segment of the student population: middle-class Christians.

Now, I don't have anything against Christians, per se. In fact, long ago, I used to think I was one myself. The only problem is, I don't think I've encountered more than a handful in my whole life. Oh, I've met lots of people who go to church on Sunday, pray regularly, read their Bibles and smile at homeless people, but, by golly, they'll be damned (hat) if that makes them Christian.

Most likely you all know the kind I'm talking about: they look, dress, act, speak, and, on most matters, think just like the rest of us. They wear nice clothes and drive cars. They complain about hangovers. They don't seem out of the ordinary in any significant way. Yet they distinguish themselves by sporting cross necklaces, typically made out of precious metals and gems, or by uncomfortable shuffling when a comment such as "Jesus was a latent homosexual" is made within earshot. Other than that, they're just like you or I.

And that's just the problem. This rant, at heart, is really about hypocrisy. I only focused on middle-class Christians because they are, as a group, the most salient example of wholesale hypocrisy that I could think of. Moreover, as I said, I used to be one, and so have a particularly bitter taste left in my mouth (and I wasn't

"A real Christian is supposed to be completely motivated by the desire to do God's work. This involves, according to the Bible, giving away all one has to the needy, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, judging no one, forgiving any transgression, and having love and compassion for all."

even Catholic), and a very personal axe to grind.

Not many people understand what a real Christian is supposed to be like. The example of Jesus has been so bandied about and abused that it has lost all meaning. Jean Valjean is a pretty good example, but how many people have read *Les Misérables*? (Doug Pinner!) Come now!

A real Christian is supposed to be completely motivated by the desire to do God's work. This involves, according to the Bible, giving away all one has to the needy, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, judging no one, having love and compassion for all. You're supposed to be so busy doing these things that you don't have time to be concerned about yourself. You aren't supposed to have a family. You aren't supposed to have an education. You aren't supposed to have nice clothes and a car. You aren't supposed to have a house in the suburbs. Hell, you aren't even supposed to think about your future, much less plan for it. Sound like anyone you know? I didn't think so.

The deepest root reason why people have such insurmountable difficulty acting in accordance with the above precepts is that they are, like all organisms, deeply selfish, and inexorably compelled to seek the proliferation of their genes. At their core, a car, house, clothes, wealth, even education, are all valuable tools in the high-stakes reproductive game.

And, when compelling evidence of the existence and expectations of God is largely absent from everyday life, when the existence of advertisements and social expectations are so prevalent, it becomes much easier to quiet that nagging conscience with accepted ritual and ceremony than with difficult action.

Strange as it may seem, I don't advocate this "genuine" way of life. I don't think it's conducive to happiness or even the overall good of society, although some elements certainly are. I don't want a whole lot of fanatic religious fervour sweeping the country; I don't want people with that down-home religiosity. I don't want to see 25-year-old virgins. I'm not even convinced that the poor and needy would be a whole lot better off from these ministrations after our economy inevitably collapsed. There'd just be more of them.

All I'm really getting at is that if you want to call yourself a Christian, you had damned well better be living like one. And if you're not willing to live like one, please give up the sham.

I would like to continue this offensive tirade, but my word count is creeping ever higher. If you are bothered by what you have just read, please, feel free to write in and tell me I'm going to hell, or that you will pray for me, or that God still loves me, or something equally asinine. Just don't give away all your worldly possessions without calling me first. You might have something I want.

Mental illness still carries unfair stigmas

SARAH
HANASYK

During the naively optimistic years of my first degree, I was forced to consume two hours of feticid public-transit air in order to get to and from my home in Mill Woods to this belated microcosm of learning. Were it not for the entertainment provided by one particularly amusing passenger, I surely would have broken down in an anxiety-driven rage from the always-brilliant overheard junior-high group conversations. This man would talk at great length to the person beside him about random sports scores, the weather, or just life's ills in general, which would normally have remained fairly benign to any listener sitting beside him, except for one fact—there never was one.

My enthusiastic bus friend was schizophrenic—afflicted with a disease as hard to understand as it is to spell. But having it did not mean that at any minute he was about to explode in unprovoked violence, that he liked to eat his own shoes, or that by sitting next to him on the bus you would be helplessly drawn into his schizo-vortex and catch all of his schizo-germs. Yet it is interesting, though unsurprising, how many people go out of their way to avoid people like this. Admittedly, I used to be one of them.

Having just finished a month-long work term in one of our province's

mental-health institutions, though, has provided me with a second glance at mental illness, medicine's illegitimate baby brother. The stigma is still common despite our decreasing medical ignorance. People suffering from mental illness are still feared due predominantly to media stereotyping and inexperience on the part of the general public with these types of afflictions.

Even friends with problems justifiably large enough to warrant professional help have declined the option of psychologist intervention based on this stigma.

When we hear the words "mental institution," TV and film have made us think of white, padded rooms filled with people in straitjackets rocking back and forth and trying to eat their own necks. Alternatively, we think of a flaccid, drooling statistic sitting lifeless in front of a window, sedated from their hourly cocktail of medications. Having since worked with some of the worst of the worst diagnostic cases, I can verify that these images have been born out of the same ignorant fear that keeps those with mental illness as social pariahs. Until you colour Halloween pumpkins with a deaf, autistic 30-year-old man whose brain is effectively four years old from the heroin and tequila

his mom did when she was pregnant, you can't appreciate life's true value, and see how fear of these people is not even a consideration.

This doesn't just happen in extreme cases, either. Even friends with problems justifiably large enough to warrant professional help have declined the option of psychologist intervention based on this stigma. Too many people feel that emotional problems can be disregarded, self-diagnosed, or that going to see a professional indicates some sort of personal failure. This is apparent even here on campus, where you can almost see the stress lines radiating from brains everywhere. Evidently most people prefer to live with anxiety and depression rather than use their ten free counseling sessions provided by our Students' Union.

Mental illness is more prevalent than most people think. It sits next to you in English class, serves you coffee in restaurants, and reads this article between classes. One in five of us will be affected by it at some point in our lives, but most have no distinguishing visible symptoms from which the fearful can run. The people who talk to themselves, injure themselves, or run screaming down the halls of hospitals are merely communicating in the only form they are able.

Discrimination is unjustified. It arises only from superstition and lack of empathy, unnecessarily creating an exclusionary avoidance, and forcing many into silence and shame over their illnesses. So remember, just because my old bus friend can carry a two-person conversation alone, doesn't mean he can't see that no one is really there.

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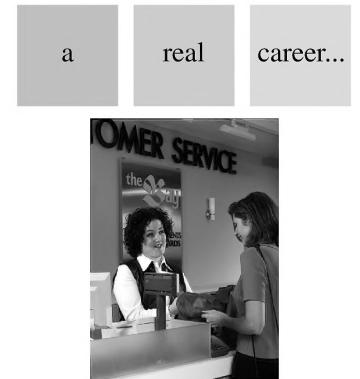
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Tuition protest at cattle event deplorable



JAMIE
ROTHENBURGER

Premier Ralph Klein found time during his busy campaign schedule last week to stop by Farmfair, which was taking place at Northlands Park. He had planned to spend an hour touring the exhibits, which featured top-quality purebred cattle. The organizers hoped that his visit would draw attention to the ongoing plight of the Canadian cattle industry, which has been greatly affected by the so-called Mad Cow crisis, which has essentially driven ranchers' major customer and driven cattle prices to ridiculously low levels. Needless to say, cattle farmers and ranchers have had a heck of a time making ends meet ever since.

It would be an understatement to say that the plight of the cattle producer is a grave one. Any and all media attention to their cause is important. If the US border remains closed to Canadian cattle much longer, it could spell the end to an entire industry. Of that note, I would like to mention six fellow U of A students who took it upon themselves to interrupt Klein's crucial visit to Farmfair.

These six students decided that Klein's tour of the cattle exhibits was an appropriate place to stage a tuition protest. They heckled the premier about the costs of education while waving the now-famous "I Heart Alberta Mortboards" signs in his face. The organizers of this tour were quite upset, and rightly so. This was their chance to have Klein's undivided attention, only to have the spotlight stolen by six ignorant, disrespectful, uneducated U of A students. The tour was ended halfway through, and both Klein and the organizers were not impressed.

To those six students: way to go. Clearly, rising tuition costs are more important than an industry that supports thousands of Canadians. Heck, if those silly "cowboys" would just get their act together and go to university—with soon-to-be-lower tuition—their problems would be solved!

Also, going with a sign to represent the cattle industry is a great idea. Talk about a slap in the face: the "I Heart Alberta Beef" design was around long before the Mad Cow crisis. The action has certainly ruined SU President Jordan Blatz's idea of taking the education issue into rural Alberta. Perhaps it was a good idea before, but I can't really see any of those ranchers supporting our campaign after this—the entire industry is ticked off at our institution as a result

of the actions of six students.

There have been plenty of opportunities for tuition protests this year, but, unfortunately, not even a significant fraction of the U of A's more than 30,000 students bothered to show up. It seems likely that these six students got more media coverage than all of the SU's attempts this year put together. Some may say this is a good thing, but I beg to differ—there was nothing positive about the coverage in the Edmonton news.

The only way to gain the constructive attention we deserve is to send a unified message to the taxpayers of Alberta. This message needs to come from a large portion of the students, not just six. We also cannot be seen as selfish bastards who steal the spotlight from the people who need it most. I really doubt students would hold tuition protests if Klein was visiting a homeless shelter, for instance. I'm not a fan of Klein, but I do appreciate his say-in-as-a-student attitude, and his down-home good looks, and I think this protest will deter Klein from entering into any future discussions with students about their issues.

I guess next time I see one of my friends who's a cattle producer, I'll thank him for putting a "I Heart Alberta Mortboards" sign on his ranch, before then giving permission to dispose of it next time he needs to burn a pile of twine.

I act that should not only be fully recognized but publicly denounced by the current government.

To date, our government's recognition has been trite, negligible, and decidedly belated. According to the Post, a cryptically worded plaque was placed at the Suffield base in 2000 by then-Defense Minister Art Eggleton. Earlier that year, then-Defense Minister David Pratt announced a mere soliloquy, if overdue, recognition for those who so gallantly "served" their country, in the form of a \$50 million compensation package to be divided by the approximately 2000 victims (or their widows) who remain.

However, this does not mean that the government has ever apologized or otherwise been held accountable for the actions of their political predecessors. Today's government, already seen disapprovingly by those who are most supportive of the military, has nothing to lose by admitting and decrying the events that took place at Suffield, Alberta. Today's government is removed from it, and does not need to oblige their wartime predecessors.

Although it brings shame to our peacekeeping and internationally respected military and government, the bravery required by our present-day officials to admit the wrongdoings of their predecessors surely pales in comparison to the bravery that was required of the victims of CFB Suffield. However, the fact remains that the Canadian military's inhuman use of unsuspecting, well-intentioned army volunteers in order to test the effects of chemical weapons was an inexcusable crime.

Government should acknowledge 'Sufferville'



ADAM
GAUMONT

In the 1940s, at a remote WWII army base, innocent civilians were being regularly herded through chambers filled with various lethal gases while military officials and scientists looked on and observed the effects they had on the subjects. However, this was not at Auschwitz, Dachau, or any other Nazi concentration camp; this was happening much closer to home.

According to a story buried on page nine of the National Post this past Remembrance Day—and not to be found in many other newspapers on the subject—was young recruits to help the cause were unwittingly exposed to chemical weapons such as mustard gas, tear gas, and chlorine. Apparently, this was part of the military's study on the effects these gases had on soldiers in combat, and was deemed an acceptable consequence in wartime. Perhaps more shockingly, these would-be soldiers were denied medical treatment immediately following the exposure or in future years, despite the gruesome health problems that ensued.

Ailments such as burning skin, loss of vision, "huge, oozing blisters," swelling, pneumonia, and other health complications in many cases led to premature death, and in almost all cases led

to a life essentially ruined before one's 20th birthday. For years, the Canadian government scandalously denied that these events ever took place. In fact, according to the Post, it wasn't until documents were obtained and declassified in 1997, due to Access to Information requests, that this knowledge surfaced publicly.

If this sounds more like the behaviour of a dictatorship or police state than a democratic, peacekeeping nation such as Canada, then you're not alone in thinking that the irony here is ripe indeed. Let's not forget the reason Canadian soldiers voluntarily participated in WWII in the first place: essentially, to stop Hitler and his Nazis from terrorizing Europe; to prevent genocide and inhuman treatment. In other words, events such as the ones that occurred at Canadian Forces Base Suffield from taking place.

The actions of the Nazis, as unbearable as they are, were and remain arguably the most well-documented and well-publicized war crimes in the history of human warfare. War crimes such as those of "Sufferville," on the other hand, happened almost entirely off the radar screen of public knowledge. This is by no means intended to equate the stomach-churning atrocities of the Holocaust with the comparatively minor injustices that occurred at CFB Suffield. However, the fact remains that the Canadian military's inhuman use of unsuspecting, well-intentioned army volunteers in order to test the effects of chemical weapons was an inexcusable crime.

We all need to relax and just accept a C-minus



KIRK ZIMBALA



PHOTO/ILLUSTRATION: MATT TREBURN AND LEANNE BROWN

With midterm week over and finals less than a month away, it's finally time to relax. Or so it would seem, because it appears as if people are still hitting the books with alarming regularity. And it's not just those nerds in engineering—it's normal people too. At times, I've even caught myself sneaking peeks at textbooks when there is clearly no need for such foolishness. What have we become at this University? A bunch of overachieving, type-A perfectionists? Whatever happened to the dope smokin', free-lovin', hemp-wearin', slackie college student of yore?

In a perfect world, we'd all adopt the sage motto of one Mr. Krueger (George Costanza's boss on *Seinfeld*, not Freddy) and say, "I'm not too worried about it" when faced with any unfortunate circumstances that could require hard work. He got to where he is today not by being a try-hard, but by accepting his role in life and just going with the flow. That way, he didn't have to worry about pesky things like self-actualization, or living up to his potential, or doing a job well.

Fellow students, by actually doing your assignments and studying shit, you're just setting yourself up for disappointment later in life when you realize you worked hard for absolutely nothing. Talk to me in 20 years when you're doing the exact opposite of what you studied to do and you're crying yourself to sleep every night because you hate your life. The worst part is that you've got sclerosis of the liver because of all the ulcer medication

you took when you were in your 20s.

A wise old man once told me that the secret to life is lowering your expectations. And it's so true. If that career in molecular genetics looks a little too far out of reach, don't worry about it, because it probably is. Instead, settle for a career in a cubicle, slowly rotting away in a worthless obscurity and soul-sucking boredom. If that's your final destination, why not cut out the years of hoping and dreaming and convincing yourself that it will all be worth it in the end? Because it clearly won't be—you might as well just quit now.

If you don't like your crappy life, get a worse job, and learn to love your life! I mean, you don't actually need a 3.0 GPA when a 2.0 will get you almost as far in life, and you'll get there without picking up that jaded, defeated look of disappointment people find so irresistible.

In the movies, college life is all about partying and drinking away your parents' trust funds. Here at the U, though, the student body seems to

have gotten away from that. We're all at the libraries studying away like good little girls and boys instead of setting up residence in a steamed corner of that same library and nursing a two-liter of peach schnapps.

People, the founders of the U of A had the foresight to establish numerous watering holes within the confines of this fine institute of learning, yet we still have a stat like 75 per cent of students drinking only two times a month or less. Monsieurs Tory and Rutherford would be turning in their graves if they could see how we are squandering away our youth instead of seizing the opportunity to rock n' roll.

Life is too short, and med school averages are too high, so we might as well not worry about it. You know, The Eagles once wrote a song about taking it easy, called "Take It Easy." In it, they made some wonderful observations about life and love and even flatbed Fords. I think we could all heed their advice and just chill out sometimes. Like by not letting the sound of your own wheels drive you crazy.

It doesn't matter that our new president is a woman



PATRICK ROSS

Apparently, a woman becoming president of the University of Alberta is truly worthy of its main headline.

Not "U of A names new president," but "U of A names new president—and she's a woman"; this is a paraphrasing of the headline run by the *Edmonton Journal* shortly after the announcement that Dr Indira Samarasekera will be the next president of this esteemed institution. And while it may be a far cry from "One 'a them uppity women-folk' done become president of the University," the fact that a woman becoming U of A president is considered newsworthy may shed some light on some ugly truths regarding the status of gender equality in our country.

There was a time in our country's history when a woman attaining a posi-

tion of power was virtually unthinkable. The idea of women voting, owning property, and making important decisions for themselves was seen as radical left-wing claptrap. As Nellie McClung was once told, "Nice women don't want the vote."

Then, along came feminism. Through a long and hard struggle, feminists won democratic rights for women that were long overdue. Say what you will about feminism, but while there's an element of feminism that has surely given it a bad name, feminists have won many victories for our society that were absolutely necessary. A woman possessing the same right as a man is indispensable if we're to consider our "liberal society" an honest one as well.

This is why it's sad to see gender equality in the state that it is today. Women still hold fewer positions of power than men and earn less money than men in the workplace—although a recent article, in *Playboy* magazine of all places, wishes to dispute this. And while we in Canada are so proud to remember that we're one of the few

countries in the world to have had a female-led government, we should also remember that Kim Campbell held power for all of six months, and was mostly a scapegoat for the massive-chinned Brian Mulroney.

Which is, perhaps, the humour in this entire affair. The knowledge of the disadvantages suffered by women is remarkably common these days. In fact, it isn't at all difficult to imagine Dr Samarasekera having a slightly surprised reaction: "Wait, you mean all these years, I've been a woman? Get outta town!"

Despite whether or not it's true, making such special effort to refer to Dr Samarasekera as the first woman to become president of an Alberta university doesn't do her any great service. In a large sense, it does her an immense disservice. We should be looking at the whole picture; Dr Samarasekera is a woman, this is true. She's also an engineer. She's also an immigrant. More than all of this, though, she's also *qualified*.

That, more than anything, should speak for itself.

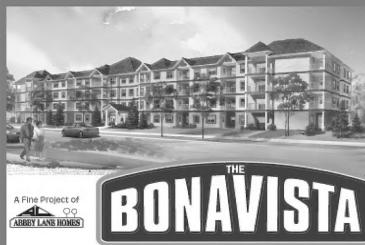
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A fruitful discussion of a juicy topic



PHILIP HEAD

The Canada Food Guide recommends five to twelve servings of fruits and vegetables a day. The genesis of this recognition of the importance of fruits dates back to biblical times, with fruits being a part of the diet of both Adam and Eve. However, despite the wide variety of fruits, two have an unquestioned dominance in Canada: the apple and the orange. This begs the question: which fruit is better?

This is a question of great social and economic importance, not just one of aesthetics. Apples are readily grown in Canada, particularly in BC, whereas oranges are often imported from abroad, particularly from Florida and California. Thus, every orange you purchase gives an economic advantage to the United States. Canadian farmers deserve to enjoy the fruits of their labours. By buying apples from Canada, you provide jobs to Canadians rather than migratory Mexicans. Frankly, any state responsible for thrusting Bush onto the international stage deserves little financial support from Canadians, particularly those with a bone to pick over the pigheaded refusal of the Americans to fully lift the beef ban.

A juicier argument rages regarding the refreshment factor of the fruits. Now apple juice can be refreshingly sweet, but some sour on it when compared to the citrus assault to the senses provided by orange juice. Nothing

clears out the funky taste in your mouth in the morning like the bracing citric-acid flush of OJ. Simply put, oranges make one alert. Another reason that orange juice rules the breakfast table is the fact that it often contains calcium supplements for those with a bovine-excretion-reduced diet. Unfortunately, people seem divided on the merits of pulp in their juice, a problem not encountered with apples. Also, few flavor combinations are as unpleasant as that of orange juice and mint-flavored toothpaste. Fortunately, scientists have remedied this fragrant cause of morning suffering through the development of citrus-flavored toothpaste.

Much of the orange's appeal is skin deep. Unlike apples, which require extensive washing to remove the waxy residues and pesticides applied to their outer surfaces, the orange can simply be peeled. It is far better to be burdened with the need to peel than with cancer.

In terms of the crunch, the orange has the contest in the bag. While both may become bruised while bumping

around a backpack, the apple undergoes striking changes in appearance and flavour when bruised, while oranges simply become mushier. The core of the problem with apples lies in the almost inedible inner regions. Unlike an orange, which could conceivably be eaten in a single mouthful, the apple is like a minefield filled with tooth-chipping seeds.

A more burning question on the minds of many is which are better for baking? Apples can be found in a plethora of pastries, such as pies, crisps, and cakes. Apples can also be made into sauce and ciders upon which many may become sauced. However, only oranges are able to remove the fowl taste of ducus, hence the reason you can never order canard au pomme at a French restaurant.

In the end, the orange can never quite match the apple in my eye. However, to me, knowledge, the apple was the forbidden fruit of the Bible, so I will have to pledge my allegiance to the self-described named orange or risk the wrath of God.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Items at Batman's garage sale

- 10 Hopelessly stretched vintage suit formerly loan to Adam West.
- 9 Crates and crates of unopened Batman Forever videos.
- 8 Rare stack of Boy Wonder boudoir photos.
- 7 Golf clubs he's getting rid of on behalf of his very good friend Bruce Wayne.
- 6 Barely used Bat-fondue set.
- 5 Entire rack of slightly irregular cowls.
- 4 Dog-eared copy of Striking Fear into the Hearts of Men for Dummies.
- 3 Vintage beige Bat-computer lle.
- 2 That giant penny with a "MAKE ME AN OFFER" sign taped to it.
- 1 A modified Billy Bass that only spits out cryptic clues about where to find the Joker's "Millennium Doomsday Device."

Stop using the word 'terrorist'



TESSA OLCHOWY

form of "Peace out," or "See you later." This conformed to its time, being the inconstant cry of protest during the Vietnam War. Today, instead of the opposers of the political regimes creating slogans, the political demons (aka Bush) do, and use them against us. The word "terrorism" has become Bush's persuasion tool to push various foreign policies into motion.

I took a little poll, like CNN does, on CNN, because any credible article these days needs a poll. In ten minutes, CNN anchors and correspondents used the word "terrorist" or the equivalent six times. To compare, I pulled out an old Bush speech entitled "President Outlines Steps to Help Iraq Achieve Democracy and Freedom," where he describes how America will fight in Iraq. "Terrorism," and other words like "terror," "terrorist" and so on are used 20 times. The speech is 30 minutes long, which would mean Bush used "terror" about every one and a half minutes.

This slang has become its own language. In *Merriam-Webster*, there is a new category entitled "Post 9-11 Effects" that has new words that were created just for the event of 11 September. Bush has successfully brainwashed a nation, coercing them, repeating the same words, until they are used in any context that could remotely suit them. Although I would like to blame only the American people, many Canadians are also using this repulsive slang.

I, for one, refuse to use the word "terrorism" in any context, since when I do, I start to produce repulsive gagging motions as my body rejects the word. So be aware of your surroundings, expose your convictions and protect your right to speak without propaganda slang.

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK

"New York is the last true city."
—Toni Morrison

FEATURE BY GRAHAM LETTNER
PHOTOS BY IRIS TSE

Corned-beef hash on rye with a kosher dill pickle can be purchased in many cities of the world. But being sandwiched between Madison and Park Avenue with the NYPD's finest directing traffic, car horns squawking in protest, pedestrians swelling between nonexistent gaps in the cars, skyscrapers devouring blue skyline, and vistas north to Central Park and south to the lower east side somehow makes a Jewish deli lunch taste better.

A recent turn of luck set me down in New York City for three full days. The taste test began, and my taste buds, along with the rest of my body, soon grew overwhelmed by the sensory overload that is NYC. Eyes dazzled, nostrils crammed full, body bumped and bruised, and ears nearly deafened—New York didn't shatter expectations; it completely redefined them.

As I broke free from the simple—yet downright exhortative—lobby of the Howard Johnson Hotel, I soon encountered the neon jungle: Times Square. Cathode tubes, fluorescent lights, painfully loud billboards and industrial-sized Lite-Brites pulsated at the speed of insanity. If TV disappeared, Times Square would more than make up for the drop in advertising.

As it is, consumerism stakes its claim as a way of life in New York. P Diddy holters from the backseat of a five-story Cadillac, MTV shoots clips in the midst of a hopeless seven-way intersection, and Coca-Cola Classic is permanently etched in the minds of passersby with its call from a Space Odyssey-sized monolith.

More to the tune of survival, immediate changes were made to how I navigated the streets and walkways of Manhattan. Traffic lights are mere suggestions for action, and swarms of humanoids regularly dictate the flow of motorcars. One does not walk through Times Square, but instead bobs, ducks and weaves like a prizefighter. In this urban zoo, a basic, primal instinct took me over as I stalked a sale, hunted an address, or scavenged a deal from a street-side huckster.

South of this madness is an oasis of truth hemmed in and hidden by Midtown skyscrapers. The New York Public Library and its backyard Bryant Park offer unrivaled intellectual capital and lawn space for lunch-goers, respectively. School kids settle in with bag lunches after a field trip to the stacks, hotdog vendors' sales sing, and Hassidic Jews ponder five moves into the future over a tabletop game of chess. Relaxing and rejuvenating, this small rectangular refuge is indicative of the many juxtapositions Manhattan's geography and people hold. Much farther south, a small pedestrian walkway dictates the moves and course of the world economy. Wall Street, hardly more than a football field in length, holds in its veins the

worldly wealth and monetary might that entire countries can only dream of. Its tail end runs into the East River, while at the head of this famous street is St Michael's Church. Armani and Hugo Boss suits zigzag in and out of office towers; their comings and goings are the only physical signs of the millions of dollars endlessly changing hands here.

The New York Stock Exchange lives here, breathing and pulsating, willing the American economy forward. We sight a steady stream of stockbrokers ducking in and out the front doors. A hastily drawn cigarette, a hot dog, a cuss word for the day's events, then quickly they dive back into the mélée to continue riding the buying-and-selling carousel. Their colour-coordinated jackets made their ebb and flow a kaleidoscope of motion. With the endless kinetic motion, only one thing stands for certain on Wall Street: an innate lust for profit.

At the southernmost tip of Manhattan is Battery Park and the piers of the Circle Line tour boats. A weathered African-American gentleman, the spray of sea salt having smoothed his croon to a perfect melody, tears tickets and welcomes tourists too numerous to count. Yet before a foot is placed onboard, three security checks must be cleared, the most intriguing being the air puffers shot from the ground that check for concealed weapons, or traces of illicit substances, or God knows what. The memory of 11 September remains, and though hospitality reigns, security plays its trump card.

A poignant reminder of better French-American relations, the Statue of Liberty is still only the first leg of a round-harbour tour that stops at Ellis Island, the gateway to America for over 22 million immigrants, and now the home of an enduring immigration museum. This immense influx of those searching for a new home is at the heart of an unmistakable quality of the city of New York: its roots run deep into a diversity of peoples known to few places in the world. This is not the casual American melting pot.

With sea legs stretched, it was a short walk for us to reach the scene of the collective New Yorker psyche: Ground Zero. Whereas before one must have gazed starward in a vain attempt to glimpse the heights of the world's most prestigious address, now we lower our eyes to view all that remains of the World Trade Centre. Unimaginable to those who knew the previous grandeur of the twin towers, the crater left behind is a gouge deep enough to have torn the city's heart free. Yet, remarkably, New York did not collapse from the trauma endured by the fall of the World Trade Centre, nor did shock and anger overwhelm it during the aftermath. Almost

unbelievably, the city is stronger and more confident than ever in character and spirit.

The members of the emergency response teams who were so invaluable immediately following the attacks are as ubiquitous as they are friendly. In fact, my traveling companions made use of the NYPD more as knowledgeable tour guides than as the city's frontline of law and order. On every second street corner, gun in holster, night stick in hand, but smiles beaming much more often than not, the boys and girls in blue are the police force any populace with a penchant for real personality would love. A few goofy side-by-side photos with those in the line of action even found their way into our scrapbooks. They didn't mind; in fact, from the polished look of their poses, I think they've had lots of practice.

With the subway that ran beneath the World Trade Centre now repaired, commuters from all across New York can commute directly to work once again in the Financial District. At the same time, we as tourists were able to skip a lengthy walk and instead push through turnstiles, rest our legs, and be whisked away by both the subway car and the swirl of lifestyles around us.

A ride on the underground trains of New York happened to be its own reward. Though commonplace to the locals, and exhausting to us—the uninitiated—the squeak and sing of the rail tracks is drowned out by the international busking community and their cacophony. There are diggery dos, oboes, a first-grade recorder lesson, pipes, drums—you name it. Those with an ear for music stop to listen and financially express their gratitude for the din of competing musicians. Nearby, boom box and cardboard are essential, as youths from boroughs only a subway ride away choreograph a break-dancing session of spins, breaks and flips on their way to subterranean fame. The harmonious song and dance of the subway is a harkening back to the fireside traditions of our ancient cave-dwelling ancestors.

Emerging back into the radiant sun at the Columbus Circle stop on the southeast tip of Central Park, the wooded wilderness beckons. Though swarmed on the weekends by the myriad New Yorkers unable to escape upstairs and reconnect with nature, during a lazy Tuesday afternoon the park remains serene and soothing. Safe from any lumberjack's saw, Central Park contains still waters, ball diamonds, carriageways, bird watching and grand fountains.

At its centre, the Metropolitan Museum of Art (or simply "the Met") houses the cultural equivalent of entire historical epochs. Skipping an unfairly cursory description of this grand museum, our climb to the summit still deserves a description. From the Japanese garden planted on its rooftop, we scanned out across the sea of foliage that surrounded us and immediately found our appreciation for the urban refuge. Fenced in by so many

skyline-stealing skyscrapers is Central Park, and regardless of how high Donald Trump drives up property value, it is simple fact that the Park will never be encroached upon. This intense demand for the protection of the

As much as New York took from us, it also left us with a sense of awe and amazement at what life in a true metropolis can be. Our shock was a New Yorker's everyday, and the hyper-motion of every in and out we discovered on that island is a common sight to not just downtown high-rollers, but to school kids on the way to class as well.

little park that remains fortifies the sense that even New Yorkers retain their granola-eating, tree-hugging impulses.

Found farther north than the upper reaches of Central Park, indeed outside of Manhattan itself, the Yankees' bats swing and the locals sing their praises. Alex Rodriguez being the latest addition to the lineup of all-stars, fans have one more hall-of-fame candidate to boast about. The swagger of all New York is embodied and ensconced on this timeless Bronx field of dreams. Disregard the fact of the miraculous Broken Curse this fall: when we visited, the Yankees had just pounded the Sox 14–4 and 11–1 in their last two weekend games. These boys of summer take to the field each inning proudly, even pompously, sporting their pinstripes for the whole world to watch. And the world does watch, mostly with the sourness reserved for those teams that repeatedly take the lion's share of champion trophies. Although we weren't in the cheap seats, the cast of characters surrounding us were borderline caricatures: "Super Fan" with cheers so loud and obnoxious that his wife had removed herself to two aisles and three rows away, and "Shook his Tailfeather," who did a little dance every time the Yankees chalked up another home run. Foolish enough to cheer for the away team, the Blue Jays, we were taunted by three middle-aged women, evidently out for a relaxing evening of baseball and \$9 de-carbonated beers. Behind me, Little Italy had come out in full force to urge Jason Giambi to "hit a home!" Orders of peanuts or crackerjacks were delivered by an underager vendor wanting to showcase his own version of a split-finger fastball. We came for a baseball game and were treated to a bonanza of Bronx Bombers fans.

New York was more exhausting than invigorating, more haphazard than harmonious, and far more big, bold and boisterous than a trio of small-town Albertans could handle. But as much as New York took from us, it also left us with a sense of awe and amazement at what life in a true metropolis can be. Our shock was a New Yorker's everyday, and the hyper-motion of every in and out we discovered on that island is a common sight to not just downtown high-rollers, but to school kids on the way to class as well. We weren't ready for NYC, but it didn't even flinch at the sight of us.

I've been fortunate to see just enough of the world to come down with the travel bug. But my visit to New York was a partial cure for that. After climbing Mount Everest, nothing else can ever take you as high. And after experiencing New York, nowhere else can ever take first place. New York is truly the last great city.

One does not walk through Times Square, but instead bobs, ducks and weaves like a prizefighter. In this urban zoo, a basic, primal instinct took me over as I stalked a sale, hunted an address, or scavenged a deal from a street-side huckster.



SPORTS

sports@gatewayualberta.ca • thursday, 25 november, 2004

Well-travelled Boxma backstops hockey Bears

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Writer

If you've ever gone Edmonton to Edmonton via such widely disparate stops as Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Reading, Pennsylvania, Manchester, New Hampshire and Long Beach, California, you've either taken a trip on Air Canada or you happen to be first-year Golden Bears goaltender Bj Boxma.

In his quest to continue playing hockey after playing for the now-defunct Edmonton Ice of the Western Hockey League, Boxma has trekked across North America and played in an alphabet soup of leagues including the WCHL, ECHL, AHL, and even a one-game appearance in the NHL with the Los Angeles Kings. But the most memorable stop so far was in Cranbrook, BC, where he backstopped the relocated Ice to a Memorial Cup championship.

"Winning the Memorial Cup was the highlight of my career," said Boxma. "To win a prestigious trophy like that and have gone on a long run with the teammates I had was unbelievable; you always cherish and look back on things like that."

Following his Memorial Cup victory, Boxma tried for a year to make it on the professional hockey circuit. It was a year that saw him bounce around from playing against top-level talent in the American Hockey League to riding the bus in the lower-tier West Coast Hockey League.

"I wanted to go down and play at least one year of pro and end with a shot at a career playing hockey," said Boxma. "It was a struggle in Long Beach [of the WCHL], because we had a poor team and didn't win a lot of games. The AHL was great; it was a great opportunity with a high calibre of hockey because the guys were just a step below the NHL and trying to make it there. I took it all in stride, learned a lot, and I'll bring that all into this year."

Boxma's teammates and coach are happy to add the experience and maturity gained from play-



FILE PHOTO: JAMES LEUNG

THE PATH IS CLEAR The Golden Bears enter this weekend's home-and-home series with the Calgary Dinos riding a ten-game winning streak.

ing a year of professional hockey to a team that already boasts depth and skill at every position.

"Anyone who has that kind of resume brings a lot of experience and depth to a team that's already solid in goal," said forward Ben Thompson. "He provides us with some stability on the back end, handles the puck well and he helps us boast what is probably the best goaltending tandem in CIS."

That tandem—Boxma and fifth-year Bear Dustin Schwartz split the goaltending duties—

will likely get a workout this weekend as the top-ranked Bears (11-1) play the provincial rival Calgary Dinos (4-4-2) in a home-and-home series, tomorrow night in Calgary and Saturday at 7:30pm at Clare Drake Arena. The Dinos will be looking for revenge against the team that bounced them from the playoffs last spring, while the Bears will be looking to preserve a 40-game unbeaten streak (35-0-5) against Calgary that stretches back to 1999.

According to Bears head coach Rob Daum, that streak doesn't mean his squad is assuming they'll get two easy victories coming into the weekend.

"When you have success against a team like we have had against Calgary it gives you confidence, but we're respectful enough of their team to realize they have a good team," said Daum. "I think we've had as much success as we have because we haven't been overconfident and haven't taken anything for granted."

Volleyball Pandas aim to snap losing streak as Bisons come to town

JAMES STORRICK
Sports Writer

While some may consider the volleyball Panda's recent streak of four losses disappointing, their spirits seem high on the practice court.

The fact that the four games were lost on the road to powerhouse rivals the Calgary Dinos and UBC Thunderbirds (the first and second-ranked teams in CIS, respectively) helps to keep them from panicking, too.

"Now we know where the teams we have to beat are," said Pandas setter Larissa Eisler. "We have specifics that need work—passing, blocking—but we're confident in our abilities."

Pandas head coach Laura Eisler agreed that her team, which had been ranked first in CIS before being swept by Calgary two weekends ago, won't be sidelined by the current losing streak.

"There was no phase of our game that was really stellar, and you're always going to lose if they're playing well and you're not," she said. "While we may have been at the top of the rankings, we knew there was more of a group of top teams who were all at about the same level. We just happened to meet two of them the last two weeks."

While the Pandas have played themselves out of the top ranking, Eisler suggested that the team's 4-4 record at this point of the season isn't an accurate reflection of its talent.

"This is the first time in a few years we've been as low in the rankings as we now are, but we're only eight matches into a 20-match regular season," she said. "All that really happens in November is that you place yourself into position for the playoffs. We haven't played ourselves out just yet."

"At this point in the season it's less about momentum than taking care of business," she

added. "Rankings don't mean anything. The bottom line is simply that you have to play better than the teams you're up against."

This weekend, they'll be up against the Manitoba Bisons (2-6), with matches scheduled for tomorrow at 8:15pm and Saturday at 6:30pm in the Main Gymnasium.

It might seem that the Bisons are just the opponent to help the Pandas end their losing skid. But if the rankings are deceptive in regards to Alberta, Eisler suggests that they're doubly so for the Bisons, who, while not ranked in the top ten, are still threatening enough contenders to keep the Pandas on their collective toes.

"Manitoba really forces you to win; they don't make many mistakes," Eisler said. "If we play a good, patient game the outcome will take care of itself, but if we don't it'll be a real battle."

Entering the pair of matches as heavy favourites, the Pandas are keeping calm and hoping to take something out of the adversity they've suffered over the last two weekends.

"Are we happy going 0-4 against Calgary and UBC? Absolutely not," said Eisler. "But it is what it is, and we have to go with that. I don't think we expected to go undefeated; you'd always like to, but even as the top team in the country, the odds of going undefeated are never that good."

CHARITY!

The University Athletics Board is holding silent auctions at both the volleyball and hockey matches on Saturday night, with proceeds going to Santa's Anonymous. There will also be a "Bear Toss" of new teddy bears at the hockey game, with all bears being donated to the Stollery Children's Hospital. Fans can either bring their own teddy bears or buy one at the game.



FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

A TIME TO KILL The Pandas will host the Manitoba Bisons tomorrow and Saturday night.

Canada West jersey rule is ridiculous

Pandas are right to defy ban on changing from warm-up gear at team bench



ANAPURNI
NARAYANAN

Sports
Commentary

A new rule from the Canada West Universities Athletic Association has banned all athletes in all sports from changing their jerseys at the team bench prior to games. But the Pandas volleyball team has chosen to protest the rule, and I commend them for it.

The issue is not about making a feminist statement or drawing attention to themselves. It's about protesting a ridiculous rule, summarily handed down by an agency that is supposed to advocate for the athletes that it governs.

In volleyball, changing at courtside is the norm. Strangely, this custom doesn't have its roots in providing spectators with some eye candy, but has its foundations in competitive sports performance. From the first serve, volleyball demands powerful, explosive action. Pre-game warm-up gets the muscles ready for fast, dynamic movement. The game starts almost immediately after warm-up, leaving little time for the muscles to cool down. When a team leaves to change, it delays the start of the game. The muscles begin to cool and the risk of injury increases. As an organization, Canada West should be concerned with protecting the interests of the athletes, but in this case it's clearly ignoring them.

And even finding a place to change may be a belaboured process. Visiting

volleyball teams are not always given a team room, and prior to this rule, change rooms were not always provided. Players would come to the game dressed in shorts, warm-up shirt and sweats, and change quickly at courtside. This new rule does not include a provision requiring the host team to provide a nearby change room.

In volleyball, changing at courtside is the norm. Strangely, this custom doesn't have its roots in providing spectators with some eye candy, but has its foundations in competitive sports performance.

The status quo of changing at the team bench served the interests of athletes and coaches. Yet, a complaint by, apparently, a single spectator is enough to bring about a new rule. A single spectator should not have this kind of power. If the complaint had been lodged by an athlete who felt uncomfortable changing at the team bench, then the issue would be real concern. But before the new rule, changing at courtside was not an issue because players had the freedom to change wherever they felt comfortable.

Volleyball is a fast-paced sport that involves digging and diving for the ball. As a result, wearing bulky or baggy clothing impedes ease of motion. Hence, the trend has been to move towards form-fitting spandex that is more functional. Some would argue that, like the tight uniforms, changing at the team bench is meant to "sex up" women's sport and sport popularity. Such an approach certainly wouldn't be unique. However, at the intercollegiate level, athletics are performance driven and should be athlete centred, and the athletes are more concerned with giving a skilled performance than with whether spectators are ogling them.

The new rule applies to all athletes in all Canada West sports. But when originally proposed it was only for volleyball, and it remains volleyball focused despite its technically broad application. It can't even feasibly enforced in all sports. For example, if a track athlete decides to change before his events, officials can't reasonably move his starting block back two meters or add 0.1 seconds to his time. Although this rule is supposed to affect all athletes, it selectively affects women in a sport where changing jerseys is an issue and the penalty can be punitive but not devastating.

Targeting volleyball players with this rule is ridiculous. Spectators see more skin while working out at the gym, going for a swim or watching Britney Spears on MTV. Canada West should focus on the concerns of the athletes, coaches and the execution of sport, and not on non-issues like showing a little bit of skin and a sports bra.

Swimmers enjoying relaxed mood under new coach

PAUL OWEN
Sports Writer

The last thing that most people would expect to see being worn alongside a Speedo is a pair of shin-high boots. Yet Golden Bear swimmer Mike Vanden Ham wears them everywhere he goes, including the pool deck.

"He likes to keep his feet warm," said a giggling Panda captain Jessica Sherwood.

This is a team whose members once tied a teammate to a pole in Quad in his underwear, and who used to send rookies to class in their swimsuits for the first week of school. The team still focuses as much on competition between each other—a battle of the sexes or of the sprinters against the distance swimmers—as they do on competition against the other schools they face.

The boots and the competition are just a couple of aspects of the newly-relaxed atmosphere that new head coach Sam Montgomery has implemented for the swim team—changes both Sherwood and Bears' captain Borrey Kim have embraced.

"This year we've got a lot of rookies and it's a lot more relaxed. We were losing a lot of our seniors, so trying to do things a lot more fun and involve more of the swimmers," said Kim. "He's increased the number of workouts to make it more adaptable for students."

Montgomery's changes seem to be working, as the swim club has doubled in size from last year, a trend that makes Montgomery feel his club is headed in the right direction.

"I want to cast the net wide, bring

in as many people as we can and make the training environment as fun as possible so that when we work hard, we're doing it with people we like," he explained.

The club is looking at sending 25 swimmers to the Canada West meet, with 20 already qualified, and eight to ten to the CIS championships—which will be held here in Edmonton 25–27 July—to field both men's and women's relay teams. While neither squad has a national medal-calibre swimmer, Montgomery has solid hopes for the host team.

"We have swimmers who should be in the top two or so, but we don't yet have that franchise swimmer," he said. "We're hoping for top tens for both teams."

Seven Alberta swimmers are at the Canadian Open Short Course Nationals in Calgary, which start today. Highlighting the team are three first-year Pandas: Elsa Van Goudsouw, Nicole Schnapp and Cynthia Galfrie. As Montgomery tries to resurrect the once-strong Alberta swim program, which last year finished tenth on the women's side and twelfth on the men's at the CIS championships, the three rookies highlight a key aspect of his plans: recruiting high-quality swimmers, whether or not they are prepared to wear matching boots with their suits.

"In the past few years we really haven't recruited outside of the local clubs, so we have to do a better job of bringing the athletes in," he said. "We need to be successful in recruiting three or four athletes at the national-finalist level, and do that for three or four years."

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Teams should chase nut Artest



CHRIS
OLEARY

Sports
Commentary

A lot has been said about last Friday's riot/brawl at an NBA game in Detroit, when several Indiana Pacers players were fighting with drink-hurling fans of the Detroit Pistons. People have claimed that this was the darkest day in the NBA's history; that situations like this will escalate until someone dies; that the suspensions handed out were too harsh, or not harsh enough. And for the already-large portion of the media that's been critical of Indiana's Ron Artest throughout his career, his actions in Friday's brawl have enabled them to make him the latest poster child of everything that's wrong with pro sports.

For the most part, what's being said about the guy that his teammates call "Ron-Ron" is true. He does say the wrong things. He often does the wrong things. He's unpredictable, unruly and will almost certainly cost any team that he plays on a handful of games per season. But if I were an NBA general manager, the one question that I'd want an answer to right now would be "How can I get rid of you on my team?"

For those who didn't know who Ron Artest was a week ago, you have

to know that this guy is anything but an average NBA player. In his short five-year career, Artest has developed a reputation as the league's loosest cannon. In addition to the handful of games he's lost in suspensions through his career, some of the things he's done have just been bizarre. As a rookie with the Chicago Bulls in 2000, he applied for a part-time job at the electronics store Circuit City so he could take advantage of the employee discount. Shortly after being traded to the Pacers, he remeasured his teammates out for losing a game, telling them that they couldn't have any food because they didn't deserve to eat. As one of the only players in the all-star game without a shoe deal this past year in LA, he decided to wear four different brands of shoes through the game, wearing a different brand on each foot all night.

So it might seem, especially after watching him rush into the stands to point at the fan who he mistakenly thought was the fan a him, that no GM should have an interest in Ron Artest. But the truth is, he'd make a better choice than Toronto Raptors "superstar" Vince Carter. As volatile as he is, I'd rather have someone like Ron Artest on my team than Carter, who has all of the athletic ability in the world yet is content with scoring in the low single digits and watching the game from the bench through the fourth quarter. While Carter has become the NBA's greatest underachiever since Isaiah Rider, Artest is

the game's hardest-working defender, and before he was suspended for the season was averaging a career-best 24.6 points per game, showing that he can excel on both ends of the floor.

Before the Pistons-Pacers fight on Friday, the NBA's biggest story was that the Toronto Raptors were close to dealing Carter to the Portland Trail Blazers in a multi-player deal. The talk of that deal has faded since the weekend, but it's become clear that neither Carter nor the Raptors are happy with their current situation. Enter Artest, who at this point would presumably be on the market for the right price.

Trading Carter for Artest may seem like a bad deal initially, since Artest has about 75 more games to sit out before he can play again. But really, whatever Carter's talent, the Raptors wouldn't be losing much by dealing what is essentially a \$12 million US cheerleader who might give them 15 to 20 points per game. If the NBA were the Land of Oz, I'd rather have the Scarecrow (no brain, all heart) on my team than the Tin Man (all brain, no heart). In Artest, the Raptors would (eventually) get a Scarecrow: a defensive leader, a reliable scorer and someone who thrives in a system that relies on all five players.

Although Artest isn't the most stable player to ever lace up a pair of shoes (or four), once his suspension is up he's going to have a productive career in front of him. He may be at a low point now, but whatever team has him in its jersey will reap the benefits.



RISING ABOVE The Bears hope to block the charging Bisons this weekend.

"How is it that a straight man can break out in cold sweats watching Queer as Folk, but won't think twice about spanking another dude in the face with his chestnuts?"

said in ed — May 15, 2004



Top-ranked volleyball Bears to host Bisons

KELSI DA COSTA
Sports Writer

and his offensive prowess—before his injury, he averaged 2.75 kills per game, second highest on the team—should help the Bears' cause against the Bisons. But offense is not the only area that the Bears are focusing on.

"I think they're both very important aspects of the game," Carroll says of the offensive and defensive sides of his team. "But I do know [the Bisons] have one guy, Toon van Lankveld, [and] it's definitely defense and blocking against him and focusing how we're going to play around him."

"After a win like in Calgary, we spent about 45 minutes picking apart what we could have done better. That was after a win, and that's something we're going to continue to do."

LEO CARROLL,
GOLDEN BEARS VOLLEYBALL MIDDLE

The top-ranked Golden Bears volleyball team (8-1) hopes to improve its record as well as its skills when they host the Manitoba Bisons (3-3) in a pair of matches tomorrow and Saturday.

This weekend will be the first time that these teams have met since the national semi-finals last season, which the Bears won en route to a silver medal. The Bisons' roster has gone through some significant changes since that meeting, and they've struggled somewhat to start this season, though they're still ranked seventh in CIS.

"That's going to be a pretty big challenge for us, just getting a feel for the team on the court and their style of play," Bears middle Leo Carroll noted.

Sporting a near-perfect record, the Bears know it's important to get too overconfident, especially with much of their season left to be played.

"Traditionally, Manitoba's a pretty highly ranked team, and they're pretty strong," Carroll said. "Not taking them too lightly is a big thing."

Though Albertans been ranked at the top of the country all season, they learned last year, when they were ranked behind Manitoba at the end of the regular season, that it's a position they can't take for granted, and they're continually looking for ways to improve their play.

"Every time we play we definitely can see something we need to improve, something we need to work on, which is good," said Carroll. "We've been working on getting people passing ... [and] on our ball control."

The team had also been focusing on getting different players on the court, especially since starting power and co-captain Aaron Schulha went out with an ankle injury three weeks ago. However, Schulha is expected to return to the lineup this weekend,

Van Lankveld, a six-foot-six left-side hitter with a 3.38 kills-per-game average, sixth-best in the conference, should provide plenty of opportunities for the Bears to work on their defense. According to Carroll, the Bears are heavily focused on improvement in all facets of the game. He pointed to a sweep of the Calgary Dinos two weeks ago as an example.

"After a win like in Calgary, we spent about 45 minutes picking apart what we could have done better," said Carroll. "That was after a win, and that's something we're going to continue to do."

This weekend's matches against the Bisons are scheduled for 6:30pm tomorrow and 8:15pm Saturday, both in the Main Gym.

THE STATS PAGE

Men's Hockey

Canada West standings

Mountain Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Alberta	12	11	1	0	56	18	22
Calgary	10	4	4	2	34	24	10
UBC	12	0	9	3	29	58	3
Lethbridge	12	1	11	0	27	75	2

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Saskatchewan	12	9	2	1	53	31	19
Manitoba	12	7	3	2	47	31	16
Regina	14	5	7	2	39	38	12

Schedule

	Friday	Saturday
Regina @ Manitoba	6pm	Regina @ Manitoba 6pm
UBC @ Lethbridge	7pm	UBC @ Lethbridge 7pm
Alberta @ Calgary	7pm	Calgary @ Alberta 7:30pm

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1) 6. Saint Mary's (5)
2. Saskatchewan (2) 7. Moncton (8)
3. Lakehead (3) 8. UQTR (10)
4. Western (5) 9. Ottawa (9)
5. Manitoba (4) 10. New Brunswick (7)

Women's Hockey

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Alberta	8	8	0	0	45	9	16
Regina	8	4	3	1	28	24	9
UBC	8	3	3	2	18	24	8
Lethbridge	8	2	3	3	20	31	7
Saskatchewan	8	2	5	1	19	30	5
Manitoba	8	2	5	1	16	28	5

Schedule

	Friday	Saturday
Lethbridge @ Sask	6pm	Lethbridge @ Sask 6pm
Manitoba @ Regina	6:30pm	Manitoba @ Regina 6:30pm
Alberta @ UBC	8:30pm	Alberta @ UBC 8:30pm

Women's Basketball

Canada West standings

Central Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Saskatchewan	6	4	2	436	388	8
Calgary	6	4	2	375	357	8
Lethbridge	6	2	4	399	441	4
Alberta	6	0	6	354	443	0

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Simon Fraser	6	6	0	477	288	12
Victoria	6	4	2	360	335	8
UBC	6	3	3	360	350	6
Trinity Western	6	1	5	353	430	2

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Winnipeg	6	6	0	457	350	12
Regina	6	3	3	345	348	6
Manitoba	4	1	3	312	340	2
Brandon	4	0	4	163	312	0

Schedule

	Today	Friday
Brandon @ Wpg	5:15pm	Regina @ Manitoba 5:15pm
UBC @ TWU	6:45pm	Sask @ Calgary 6pm
		Alberta @ Leth 6:30pm
		Victoria @ SFU 7:15pm

Saturday

Wpg @ Brandon	5:15pm	Alberta @ Leth 6:30pm
Regina @ Manitoba	5:15pm	UBC @ TWU 7pm
Sask @ Calgary	6pm	Victoria @ SFU 9:15pm

Women's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	PTS
Calgary	8	8	0	24	9	16
UBC	7	7	0	21	3	14
Regina	7	6	1	18	6	12
Winnipeg	8	6	2	20	12	12
Alberta	8	4	4	17	14	8
Manitoba	8	2	6	10	18	4
TWU	8	2	6	12	21	4
Simon Fraser	8	0	8	8	24	0
Saskatchewan	8	0	8	1	24	0

Schedule

Friday	Saturday
Regina @ Winnipeg 5pm	Calgary @ Sask 5:15pm
Calgary @ Sask 5:15pm	Man @ Alberta 6:30pm
SFU @ UBC 7pm	Regina @ Winnipeg 6:30pm
Man @ Alberta 8:15pm	SFU @ UBC 7pm

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Calgary (1) 6. Montréal (6)
2. UBC (2) 7. Laval (7)
3. Sherbrooke (3) 8. Wilfrid Laurier (8)
4. Alberta (3) 9. Trinity Western (9)
5. Winnipeg (5) 10. Western (10)

Men's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	PTS
Alberta	8	7	1	23	6	14
UBC	6	5	1	15	6	10
Saskatchewan	6	4	2	15	10	8
TWU	6	3	3	12	10	6
Winnipeg	6	3	3	11	14	6
Manitoba	6	2	4	10	13	4
Calgary	6	1	5	4	16	2
Regina	8	1	7	7	22	2

Schedule

Friday	Saturday
Man @ Alberta 6:30pm	Regina @ Winnipeg 5pm
Regina @ Winnie 6:30pm	Calgary @ Sask 7pm
Calgary @ Sask 7pm	Man @ Alberta 8:15pm
TWU @ UBC 9pm	TWU @ UBC 9pm

Men's Basketball

Canada West standings

Central Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Saskatchewan	6	5	1	518	457	10
Alberta	4	3	1	287	287	6
Calgary	4	2	2	298	273	4
Lethbridge	6	0	6	413	512	0

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Victoria	6	4	2	426	411	8
UBC	6	4	2	425	387	8
Trinity Western	4	2	2	298	309	4
Simon Fraser	4	0	4	282	306	0

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Regina	4	3	1	338	317	6
Brandon	4	3	1	310	298	6
Manitoba	4	2	2	290	305	4
Winnipeg	4	0	4	307	330	0

Schedule

Today	Friday
Brandon @ Winnipeg 7pm	Regina @ Manitoba 7pm
UBC @ TWU 9pm	Sask @ Calgary 8pm
Alberta @ Leth 8:15pm	Victoria @ SFU 7:15pm
	Victoria @ SFU 9:15pm

Saturday

Regina @ Brandon 7:15pm	Alberta @ Leth 8:15pm
Regina @ Manitoba 5:15pm	UBC @ TWU 7pm
Sask @ Calgary 6pm	Victoria @ SFU 9:15pm

SPORTS SHORTS

Football

This weekend, the Québec Student Sports Federation champion Laval Rouge et Or will try to defend their national championship when they face the Canada West champion Saskatchewan Huskies in the Vanier Cup.

The Rouge et Or have been to the championship game twice before (1999 and 2003), winning both, while the Huskies have a 3-2 record in their six appearances dating back to 1989. The two teams have met only once before, in the 1990 Churchill Bowl national semi-final, which Laval won 27-21.

This year's game at Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton will be the First Vanier Cup played outside of Toronto, and the first played outdoors since 1988. In other football news, CIS announced the first and second-team all-Canadians this week, and five Golden Bears were all named first-team all-Canadians. Offensively, receiver Andrew Girmee made the first team, while running back Jared Winkel made the second team. Today and tomorrow, CIS will announce its major award winners, and two Bears

are nominated: Lowry is the Canada West nominee for the President's Trophy as best defensive player, while head coach Frank Tindall is up for the year.

Women's Hockey

The Pandas (8-0-0), return to Canada West action this weekend in Vancouver against the Thunderbirds (3-3-2) tomorrow and Saturday. Alberta enters the games carrying an 8-game unbeaten streak against the Thunderbirds since 1998. Kickoff for the game is at 11am Saturday, with the game broadcast live on TSN. In other football news, CIS announced the first and second-team all-Canadians this week, and five Golden Bears were all named first-team all-Canadians. Offensively, receiver Andrew Girmee made the first team, while running back Jared Winkel made the second team. Today and tomorrow, CIS will announce its major award winners, and two Bears

are nominated: Lowry is the Canada West nominee for the President's Trophy as best defensive player, while head coach Frank Tindall is up for the year.

Basketball

Both the Pandas (0-6) and Golden Bears (3-1) will head to Lethbridge for two games each against the Ponghorns (2-4 women's, 0-6 men's) tomorrow and Saturday. None of the four teams are nationally ranked, but the winless Pandas will try to build some momentum from their double-overtime loss to the eighth-ranked Manitoba Bisons last week. The Bears, meanwhile, are on a three-game winning streak in Canada West play after dropping their season opener to the Saskatchewan Huskies.

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

**Yanni**

Rexall Place

Thursday, 25 November at 8pm

Don't try and deny it: at one time in your life (likely through one of those charming K-Tel compilation TV spots) you've probably heard of Yanni. A new-age instrumentalist, the keyboard guru has sold millions of albums, graces international stages, and makes wondrous music with the sound of his Greekian balladry. Unfortunately, music like Yanni's has, in recent years, been labeled as "uncool" by the under-40 demographic.

Tonight it's time to break the cycle and go to a concert that will musically nurture your stressed out, end-of-term brain.



ReelFemme '04: An Evening of Feminist Film

FAVA Exhibition Suite
(Orton Armory Arts Building)

Saturday, 27 November at 7pm

Blade was great, but if you're in the mood for more "meaningful" films, Reel Femme is a must-see this Saturday night. Showcasing five original works from Calgary's 14th Annual Feminist Film Festival, Reel Femme aims to spark support for women in the film industry.

With artists originating from the national and international community and film titles like *The Ten Rules: A Lesbian Survival Guide* and *Body Talk*, you can bet that you'll come out of the screening with an increased knowledge of feminist issues in the global community. And there's nothing more rad than empowerment.



Taboo: The Naughty But Nice Sex Show

Northlands Sportex
25–28 November

Considering this is Social Intercourse, we couldn't wrap up listing the weekend's events without mentioning *Taboo: The Naughty But Nice Sex Show*.

Taboo is an upscale trade show relating to romance and self-improvement. It includes events such as fashion shows, product demonstrations, and educational workshops—all relating to the taboo subject of making “the love”—in a non-threatening (read: non-sleazy 97 Street sexpolium) environment. So grab your friends and head on over for a fetishism seminar and a free sample of edible underwear. You're guaranteed to leave feeling sexier than ever before.

ASIA SZKUDLAREK
Femme Sociale

Have yourself a Kranksy little Christmas

Featuring plenty of superficial wackiness and more D-list celebrities than an episode of *Hollywood Squares*, *Christmas with the Kranks* is just a feature-length TV X-mas special

Christmas with the Kranks

Directed by Joe Roth

Starring Tim Allen, Jamie Lee Curtis, Julie Gonzalo, Eric Per Sullivan, Caroline Rhea, and Dan Aykroyd
Opens Friday, 26 November

TYSON KABAN

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Watching *Christmas with the Kranks* is like wearing a festive sweater from your grandma: it's a novelty only appreciated by the middle-aged that you can never admit to liking.

Based on John Grisham's novella *Skipping Christmas*, the film stars Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis as Luther and Nora Kranks. After their blindingly attractive daughter Blair (Julie Gonzalo) runs off to join the peace corps—yes, the peace corps—Luther decides to boycott the merry season and ditch the family's decorated suburban paradise for a cruise in the Caribbean.

But the Kranks' crazy neighbours aren't impressed. After all, the Kranks throw the best Christmas Eve party and have the best decorations on the entire block. But the Kranks won't budge on their decision—that is, until they get a call from their daughter. The day before their trip, Blair calls to say she's coming home, Peruvian boyfriend in tow, and expects a full-blown commercial American Christmas. Needless to say, hilarity ensues.

In the hours they have before their spoilt only child arrives home, the hapless Luther and Nora beg their many neighbours for help and somehow, like in every mediocre family flick, everything works out.

The usually edgy Jamie Lee Curtis takes on an unexpected role as Nora. She's upright, feels naked without her festive sweater vests and can



whip up a faboo Martha-style Christmas party with only smoked trout and liquor—just like any self-respecting soccer mom should.

With the *Santa Clause* movies behind him, it seems like Tim Allen has a monopoly on the holiday-themed movie industry. In *Christmas with the Kranks*, he doesn't tread far from the Tim he played in *Home Improvement*. He falls from his roof trying to affix a twelve-foot Frosty and, in true sitcom form, he gets caught stealing a neighbour's tinsel-ed-out tree.

But that isn't the only thing about the film that is reminiscent of a cheese sitcom. Several D-list celebrities make appearances: Dan Aykroyd puts the dick in dictator as Vic Frohmyer, the face blotch captain who sics a hoard of carollers on the Kranks when they refuse to decorate their lawn; Caroline Rhea is Nora's best friend; Cheech Marin

tries for laughs as a bumbling cop, and Eric Per Sullivan (*Malcolm in the Middle*) plays—what else?—a neighbourhood brat. Even Laverne and Shirley's Squiggy and Will's momma from *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* make cameos to round out the sitcom-esque roster.

Aside from the odd scene—one in which Allen poses provocatively in a neon banana hammock comes to mind—*Christmas with the Kranks* seriously lacks in the tee-hee department.

If only the Kranks were as believable as their dysfunctional counterparts, *National Lampoon's The Griswolds*. Then it might be easier to overlook Luther and Nora's superficiality and laugh at their unbelievable plight. Instead, this standard holiday fare is about as satisfying as eating a Christmas ham—the kind that's canned in its own juices.

A long time ago, we used to be friends

Dig!

Directed by Ondi Timoner

Starring Anton Newcombe and Courtney Taylor-Taylor
Metro Cinema
26–29 November at 9pm

PATRICK ROSS

Arts & Entertainment Writer

"I'm going to destroy this fucked-up system; that's why I got this job," boasts Anton Newcombe, founding member of the Brian Jonestown Massacre and career rock star.

Newcombe's statement, coming in the opening seconds of *Dig!*, is a stunning indicator of his attitude toward himself, his band, and music in general. A documentary meant to chronicle the relationship between the Brian Jonestown Massacre and the Dandy Warhols, *Dig!* instead is an opus of ego and arrogance and the effect it has not only on Newcombe's career, but his entire life.

Take, for instance, some of the statements Newcombe makes in the film: "We're going to have a fuckin' revolution," he declares at one point, referring to his own "revolutionary" talent. At another, he states into the camera and announces, "We're gonna take over the world, and we're gonna show you how to do it, too."

By the time the movie has run through 30 minutes of this, you will probably have laughed and cried a lot because of Newcombe, and you'll also likely have come to hate him. The film quickly sucks you into a world of booze and pretension. At times it bombards the audience with scenes of musical creativity that are hauntingly brilliant, and at other times it descends into scenes of absolute juvenile nihilism.

One quickly gets the impression that Newcombe is a self-important, self-obsessed



megalomaniac who believes his pompous garage rock is brilliantly innovative—despite the fact that Oasis and Blur beat him to the punch nearly a half-decade earlier. But just when you think you have Newcombe all figured out—that he's a guy without a single redeeming trait—*Dig!* takes you for a ride.

The movie introduces us to Newcombe's family situation, and we begin to understand the significance of Newcombe's album title *Thank God For Mental Illness*.

We're told that Newcombe has exhibited symptoms of schizophrenia from an early age and, for a short time, Newcombe almost seems like a sympathetic character.

Then the film begins to chronicle the Brian Jonestown Massacre's rivalry with the Dandy Warhols and the events leading up to BJM's breakup. And Newcombe once again comes off

as a contemptible, self-serving bastard.

But despite Newcombe's obnoxiousness, *Dig!* is fantastic to watch, featuring creative visuals. At times the film is presented in an amateurish, shaky, scratchy style, and other times in a mode reminiscent of '60s psychedelia. Through its camerawork, the film portrays what it must have been like to actually live either of these bands' rock n' roll lifestyles.

It's important to remember this, because while the hubris and psychosis of Anton Newcombe overwhelms the viewer, the film also follows the Dandy Warhols and their rise to success. It becomes apparent Newcombe and the Warhols' lead singer Courtney Taylor-Taylor are opposite sides of the same coin: both immensely talented, each wishing for the talents the other.

It's just that one's more of a memorably obnoxious jackass.

Journey of life, journey of dance

Break Open Play

Choreographed by Matjash Mrezowski
Starring Kate Franklin, Sebastian Mena,
Shawn Newman, Keiko Nihonmiya, and
Anisa Tejpar
TransAlto Arts Barns
26–27 November at 8pm

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

These days, life is a journey for Matjash Mrezowski. The choreographer is busy touring his colourful dance piece, *Break Open Play*, across the country—a story about the “journey” of growing up. So far, the trip has been worth it: the show has opened in Ottawa and Vancouver to rave reviews, and the 27-year-old is hoping for a similar reception when the production hits Edmonton on the 26th.

The piece, which Mrezowski created through a mixture of improvisation, cast contribution and his own imagination, can be described as a unique coming-of-age performance.

“I think it’s just exploring the act of creation and playing around with materials at your disposal and also about growing up in the process and maturing as a person,” the choreographer says. “It’s not a ‘once upon a time’ narrative, but you follow five people. By the end of the piece they’re not the same people as at the beginning, so there is a sense of journey.”

Before Mrezowski started traveling across the country to *Break Open Play's* choreographer, he was a professional dancer. He says that his own experiences as a dancer give him a natural advantage when choreographing and interacting with the show's talented cast members.

“I really think the more you dance



the more you can bring to [a piece] just in terms of understanding what a dancer goes through, but also understanding physically what a body's capable of,” Mrezowski explains. “I think we absorb a lot physically through our muscle memory and so I think that's how I learned the most through physical experience.”

Accordingly, Mrezowski has put his expertise to good use in creating a dynamic, original performance that is aimed to appeal to today's youth. He doesn't, however, believe that just because his show deals with youthful themes that he should be talking down or simplifying things for the benefit of his audience.

“The work is similar to the one that I might have created if I had just thought adults were going to see it. I mean, there's maybe a little more colour, a little more loud music,” he laughs. “I didn't want to just jazz it up with bells and whistles because kids were going to see it.”

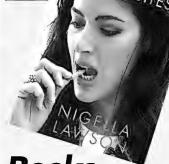
But he still thinks that the piece

holds an appeal for young people—in part because of the young-at-heart cast. Mrezowski credits his healthy relationship with his cast members to their mutual youth.

“We're quite close. Everyone's quite similar in ages, myself included—between 20 and 28 [years old],” he explains. “The dancers are young, so that, I think, is something you don't always see with a lot of contemporary dance—very young dancers who are getting the chance to shine.”

Mrezowski explains that the dancers' youth also came to shape the performance itself.

“The dancers use a lot of their past—their own personalities to create a lot of the material, which I then shaped and did my thing with,” he says. “Because in the show there's a lot of play with paper and colour and projectors and tables, we actually had those in the studio and a lot of hours per day were devoted to just fooling around and the results of that came out within the piece.”



Books IMHO

Nigella Bites

Nigella Lawson
Random House
Published 2001

TYSON KABAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

While some cooking-show enthusiasts may have crushes on a certain Naked Chef, there's only one television food-lover who can truly get the blood boiling: Nigella Lawson.

Nothing can compare to Nigella's

delicious full figure and her ability to eroticize that most sacred indulgence: food. And her 2001 cookbook, *Nigella Bites*, keeps the love affair with food and Nigella going strong.

The recipes range from the fatty (ham in Coca-Cola), to the gourmet (pumpkin and seafood curry), to the very British (deep-fried sardines). Even the most questionable dishes are rendered palatable by Nigella's conversational commentary and the vivid photographs that are scattered throughout the manual.

Nigella Bites is also a program on the Food Network, where she presents her couture cuisine with plenty of cleavage—to the extent you'll mistake her cooking show for an art-house instructional film.

Ultimately what distinguishes Nigella from Martha is that she's not repressed when it comes to her food or her sexuality. The luscious diction she uses to describe her favourite dishes could just as easily describe a naughty physical encounter. From the way she follicles batter-covered whisks and massages her meat, it's clear why her style of cooking has been referred to as “gastro-porn.”

But while real porn relies on superficial titillation, Nigella's beauty, expertise, and food all have substance. With four cookbooks, two TV shows, and journalistic experience in *Vogue* and *The New York Times* behind her, Nigella has started a hedonistic revolution in the culinary world.

This super-vixen cures hangovers, swallows second helpings, and has been able to convert both gourmets and first-time chefs with her enticing, uncomplicated cooking.

Take a look at Nigella Bites Nigella's sassy flair lives up to her book's nifty name—which is more you can say for a certain “naked” chef.

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*don't forget to mention which night you are interested in attending

free stuff

Toga Rock offers a little bit of Ionic column A, and a little bit of Doric column B

Toga Rock
Texas Blood Money
with Mark Birles Project and
Teenage Surf Invasion
Powerplant
Saturday, 27 November at 8pm

BEN MACIOROWSKI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Dante's Inferno is just one of many classic tomes you might see on the bookshelf of any dedicated student—a tale of journeying through the circles of hell.

Though Dante never included it, one of those fiery circles is reserved for the rock 'n' rollers, and this Saturday, the History and Classics Undergraduate Association is leading you through it with Toga Rock, a music festival to raise funds for the History and Classics Undergraduate Conference.

The event will bring together three of Edmonton's sinfully delicious bands—Texas Blood Money, Mark Birles Project and Teenage

Surf Invasion.

Considering the musical lineup—Texas Blood Money's death metal to Teenage Surf Invasion's surf rock—the rock 'n' roll road to hell sure seems to cover a few genres.

But Mark Birles Project stays away from such musical pigeon holing, instead describing their sound as "a cross between an elephant and a rhinoceros."

Whatever "elephant-rhino" rock might sound like, the band will soothe the lost souls at Saturday's show with tunes of an arty/reggae/aka/punk/emo variety. And Brian Birles, the group's lead singer, promises that the band "will be on their best behaviour" come show time, so audiences can look forward to a good time.

Hellish Texas Blood Money are somewhat less shy when it comes to classifying their music. Their borderline death metal distills down to drive the evening's events, promising to drive the mob into what will likely sound like some wrath-filled fifth circle

of Hades.

Still recovering from their summer tour of Ontario and the recent loss of their singer (the band has a re-occurring problem of losing singers to the siren song of suburban living), the band has been forced to go all-instrumental.

"Because we are looking for a new singer, this is the last show we have booked for right now," says Ryan Ramsden, guitarist. And, jokes Ramsden about his sans-vocalist band, "People you know who are interested in singing can come down and check it out, because we are trying out a bunch of guys this weekend."

But Adam Tupper, the band's drummer and a U of A classics student, explains that despite the altered makeup of the group, Texas Blood Money is still prepared to raise a little hell—the new instrumental sound is just, you know, a little different.

"People can focus more on the music than on the singing, you know; get a little change a pace."

At least you kept his sweatshirt.**SUBtitles**

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Fatboy Slim

Palookaville
Astrolwerks
www.fatboyslim.net

BRETT LAMBERT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With Palookaville—Fatboy Slim's fourth album—it seems the British DJ is just resting on his laurels. If this were any other artist, Palookaville would be hailed as innovation, but coming from Slim, who's coming off previous classics You've Come A Long Way, Baby and Halfway Between the Gutters and the Stars, it's clear he ain't putting his backbone into it.

The track "Slash Dot Dash" (basically a repetition of the following: "slash dot, dash dot, slash dot, dash dot com") belongs on an outtake album, not lead single to your long-awaited album.

Fortunately, he recruits the help of blurb Damon Albarn and funkmeister Bootsy Collins to liven things up. It's just that the overall tone of the album feels like he's too afraid to tread new ground. Instead, he feels compelled to give the people what he presumes they want to hear—recycled beats.

Future Leaders of the World

LV/LV
Epic
www.sonrymusic.com

GEOFF CLARKE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Early '90s-style alternative rock has fallen by the wayside in recent years, replaced in the popular consciousness by the less grungy, meat-and-potatoes breed of music found in Nickelback and their ilk.

Future Leaders Of The World remember the days of irony-free angst and plaid flannel work shirts, and are keeping the era's correlative sound alive. The standards are all here: quiet verses and crunchie choruses, Cobain-esque wailing, and disillusioned lyrics. While the band acknowledges what has come since, throwing in occasional slices of metallic rapping and Nickelback-style earnestness, their evocation of Kurt Cobain's ghost leaves the strongest impression overall.

LV/LV is perfect if you're thirsting for more grunge but don't feel like shelling out for the upcoming 81-track Nirvana box set.

Submission Hold

What Holds Back the Elephant
G7 Welcoming Committee Records
www.g7welcomingcommittee.com

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For a group that's been around the better part of two decades and released more than 15 discs, you'd think Submission Hold would be better known.

But then, the lack of attention may be related to their extremely political lyrics that are less than polite to the establishment—lines like "Joe McCarthy's corpse is smiling in his grave" while the talking heads give a little nod and wave."

But musically, every song on What Holds Back the Elephant, Submission Hold's second CD, has a different feel to it, and the provocative lyrics blend seamlessly into the experience. The record is an eclectic mix—from jazz to punk rock—that features intricate vocal runs on every song, making for a great listen on the whole. The only disappointing part of the whole CD is that, with only nine tracks, it's an all-too-brief experience.

**Not By Choice**

Second Hand Opinions
Maple Music
www.notbychoice.com

BEN MACIOROWSKI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

I was first introduced to Not By Choice in Lister Hall.

It was 2002 and at two in the morning, the Ajax, Ontario quartet appeared on my floor for no other apparent reason than to expel the myth that Canadian punk rockers don't know how to party.

Drunk on their own celebrity,

they inexplicably wound up on the fourth floor of Mackenzie Hall only to shatter numerous Aramark cafeteria trays over the skulls of a few "lucky" Listrites—and on a personal note, steal my drum-insignia sticker-coated Nalgene water bottle.

(Considering drummer Liam Killean was coveting it fiercely that night I can only imagine he was the perp.)

Irrelevant personal anecdote aside, those tiny trash-smashing radicals are back with a new album that boasts an origi-

nal, mature sound.

The Ontario quartet's second CD, Second Hand Opinions, is full of raw emotion, '80s guitar slides, and thumping rhythms, all built upon a foundation of experimentation.

"So Close" boasts acoustic guitar and piano, while on "Wake Up" the laser-guided guitar harmonies do as the song's title proclaims.

The emo-ridden mellow vocals expose the vulnerable side of the band and capture the heartfelt lyrics precisely.

Considering Canada's explosion of Avrils and Sineads, it's refreshing to hear that Canada's pop-punk scene still has a pulse and Not By Choice is that pulse's name. I just hope my Nalgene is okay, wherever it is.

MOLSON 

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